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SEATO RECORD

. VIII No. 6

ember, 1969

- THE RATIONALE OF REGIONALISM
- HUNTING DOWN VILLAINS WITH WINGS
- ...ON WITH THE DANCE

SEATO RECORD

SEATO RECORD features significant events in South-East Asia, as well as activities of the Organization and its member nations. It reports statements which reflect attitudes or policies related to SEATO's role as a defensive organization.

SEATO PROJECTS:

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH PROJECT

SEATO REGIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTRE

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Pakistan—

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COVER PICTURE:

The concept of Asian regional organizations was not born yesterday, but perhaps it is not far wrong to say that regional thinking has been gaining ascendancy in the minds of people at a greater rate than ever before. Itself a regional organization, SEATO constantly reappraises its own role in that light, and in terms of its relations with others.

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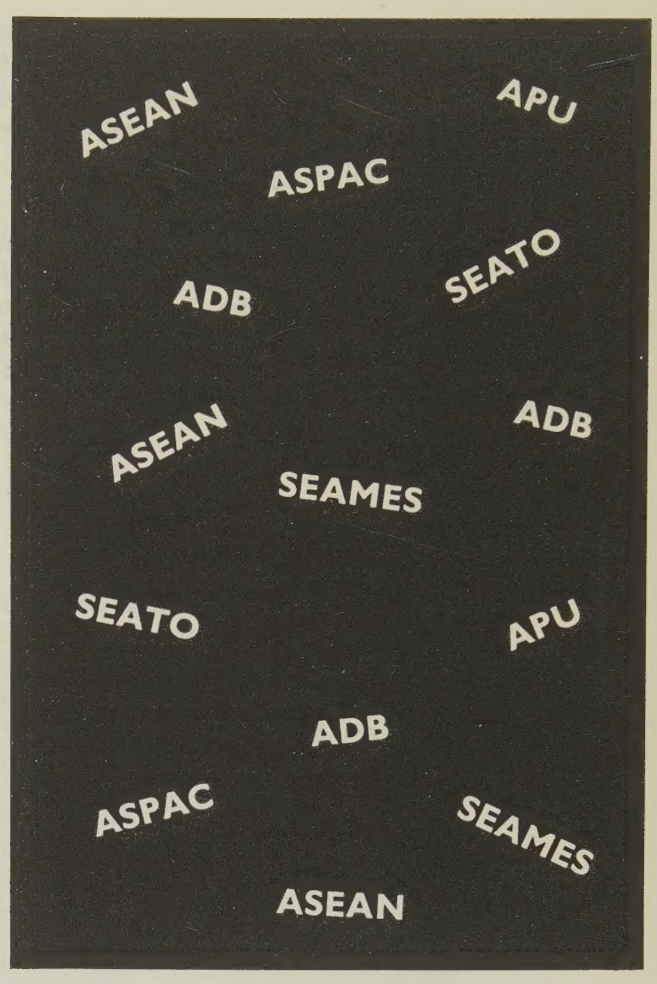
The rationale of regionalism



THE concept of regional co-operation has been for some time at the forefront of Asian economic thinking. Hence, the formation over the years of several regional organizations with this very purpose in view. Some have failed to bear fruit and have fallen by the wayside. Others such as ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations), ASPAC (Asian and Pacific Council), and the ADB (Asian Development Bank) have survived to make an impact on the Asian scene.

Before such institutions can hope to get off the ground such differences in cultures, traditions, attitudes and physical economic needs have to be reconciled among the member countries. Add to these problems a number of regional disputes *between* member countries as well as internal problems *within* them, and the difficulties which ASEAN members are encountering in initiating regional co-operation projects can be readily understood.

Now that ASEAN seems past the 'talking' stage, it is pertinent to ask just where SEATO fits into this overall pattern of regionalism. For SEATO is as much a regional organization as any other; but with one important difference: it is concerned with regional co-operation from the point of view of defence rather than economic development.

This is not to imply that there is any lack of co-operation on the economic front as well. Agricultural and medical research projects; cultural and educational exchange programmes; and technical training schemes, are some of the many ways in which SEATO co-operates, as its Charter specifies: "...in the economic, social and cultural fields in order to promote higher living standards, economic progress and social well-being in this region."

NO ASIAN SUBSTITUTE

In its other role—and a unique one in this region—as a defensive organization SEATO may not be all that others would wish it to be, but as has so often been pointed out by leaders, statesmen, and the Secretary-General himself, it is not possible to conceive of any wholly Asian alliance as a substitute that could even begin to approach SEATO's effectiveness as a deterrent so long as a Communist threat to this area continues to exist.

At present, for developing Asian countries themselves to build up a sufficiently strong deterrent "armoury" is out of the question. Moreover, the existing situation dictates that any regional defensive alliance must have the backing of a major power, and the only one at present with that backing is SEATO.

Again, in the absence of a defensive shield such as SEATO provides, hard-earned capital would have to be earmarked by the developing nations for military hardware, instead of being diverted into channels for regional development projects so as to strengthen the economic resources of all nations, both individually and collectively, under such a set-up as ASEAN itself envisages.

A TANGIBLE DETERRENT

There is no doubt that the very tangible presence of SEATO's deterrent role has, over the years of its existence, enabled the seeds of regional economic co-operation among Asian countries to be sown—whether they be members of SEATO or not. That they are now hopefully about to germinate can in considerable measure be attributed to SEATO's protective presence in the area. Moreover, it is perhaps significant, in this context, that during recent months the leaders of many countries in Asia, while not publicly advocating joining SEATO, are perhaps privately coming to recognize more and more its meaningful validity as a defensive organization with teeth in it.

A spate of recent visits to SEATO Headquarters by high-ranking military delegates from non-member countries for discussions on the civil and military role of the Organization is possibly heartening evidence of this.

VILLAGE LIFE IN EAST PAKISTAN

THE scene here of a little girl entering school clutching her satchel and writing tablet is typical in the villages of East Pakistan.

From childhood through adolescence to adulthood constitutes for the 'gentler sex' in East Pakistan a life of mixed blessings—with probably no more nor less of the joys and sorrows, the ups and downs of living that are experienced by women in different societies all over the world.

the role of women is one of mixed blessings

Most of the villagers in East Pakistan are Muslim peasants. Except for the very poor, their wives and daughters do not go out to fields to help their husbands or fathers and brothers. They stay at home and do household duties. Their life is not an easy-

going one. They have to polish the floors of their houses, cook for the family, carry drinking water to their houses, wash the dishes after meals and look after their children.

They also help their fathers or husbands and brothers in husking the grains of rice after the harvesting and mowing have been done by men. They get together for the husking to be done by the long wooden machine known as 'Dhenki'.

Two generally press one end to lever up the other end where there is a husking pole which falls into a hole. This they do according to a particular rhythm to which they even sing songs. At the other end one or two women turn the grains when the pole is up.

They also spread the unhusked rice on their yards so that rice is not spoiled by humidity. It is on the woman that the winnowing and the preservation of rice depends.

Her life, however, is by no means always hard or bitter or without any salt. When she is a little child she goes to the village mosque to learn to read the holy book of Islam in Arabic and say her prayers.

She is also taught to read and write Bengali and do 'rithmatic'. She may or may not go to a primary school because education is not compulsory. But if she belongs to the house of a well-to-do peasant, she will have to go to the village primary school.

When she grows up her marriage is arranged by her father. She is married and leaves her parents weeping and sobbing for an unknown destiny. Her father brings her home every monsoon season. She meets her brothers and sisters and gets a royal welcome and treatment at her parents' house. This is a most enjoyable holiday for her, but she has to get back to her new home after a month or two.

Then when children come, she is gradually rooted in her new home, and she can't come so often. As there is a joint family system in the villages, she has to be under the authority of the mother-in-law. If the mother-in-law is a nice, loving lady or if the daughter-in-law is clever enough to win her affection her life will be a delight. Otherwise she

There are plenty of opportunities for women in East Pakistan to learn various arts and handicrafts. Here, at one of a number of training centres in the rural areas women attend a class in sewing, stitching and knitting

Although learning classical folk dances is more popular in towns than in villages, nevertheless children and young women in the countryside continue to keep alive this important art form of the nation's cultural heritage. In this picture young girls are practicising the graceful movements of a Punjabi folk dance.

may have a miserable life, leading to bickerings, hard words and quarrels. But the quarrels are made up after sobbings and weepings.

The most pleasant part of her day is the afternoon when she is generally free from work. She has her bath in the pound. She and a few other young ladies of the household sit together, do one another's plaits, put on a good saree and enjoy their gossip.

The most difficult part of her life is when the child is born and she has hardly anyone to look after her.

Generally she goes to her mother's house for the first child-birth. She doesn't have to worry. Later she has her children born at her own home. There is always a villiage midwife who comes to help her. It is only when she falls ill that she may have trouble because there is not always a hospital in a village.

Otherwise her life gradually becomes the life of a loving mother and she depends on her children as they grow up. Only when her husband marries again can her life become miserable. But nowadays this does not often happen and a recent investigation in two different areas in East Pakistan revealed that in only two families was there more than one wife.

Hence, a village girl does not generally have to fear a miserable life in which co-wives quarrel with each other and make each others' lives miserable.

A RICE SILO THAT CAN SAVE A NATION MILLIONS

ferro-concrete storage method devised by AIT

BY R.B.L. SMITH

Professor of Structural Engineering, Asian Institute of Technology

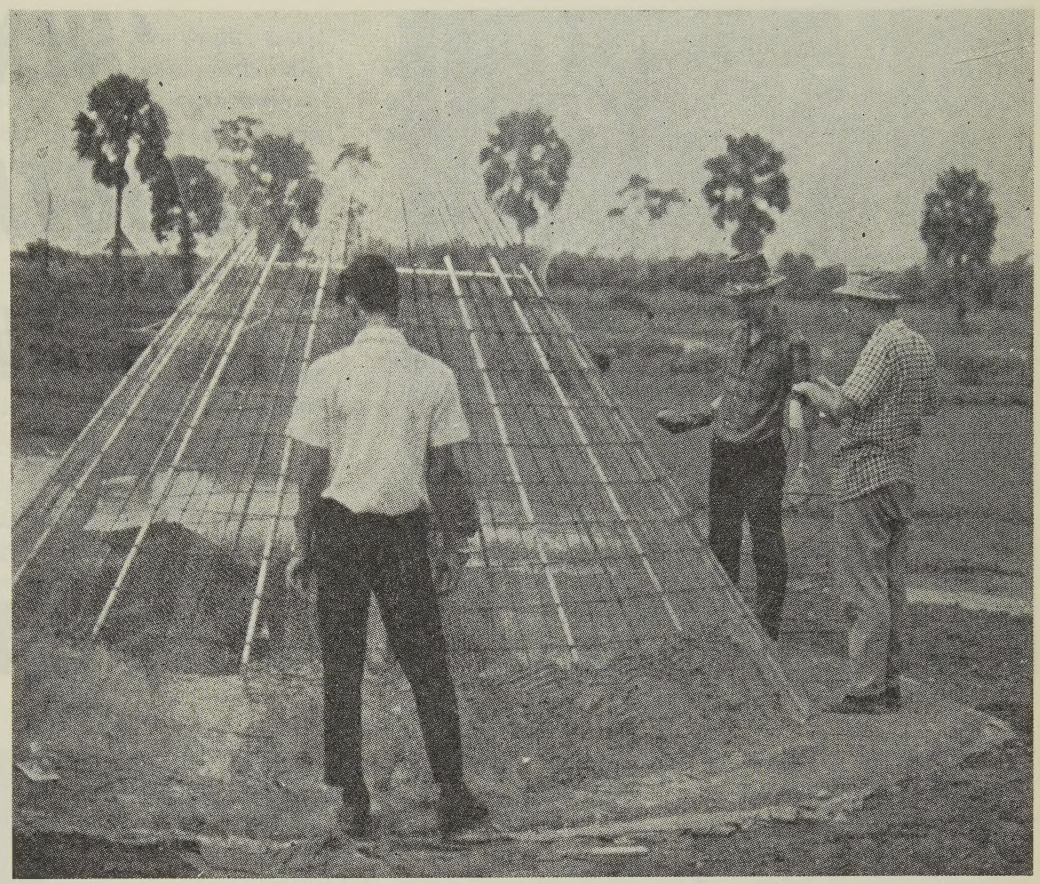
A simple but effective method of construction, called ferro-cement, has been applied by the Asian Institute of Technology (formerly the SEATO Graduate School of Engineering) to providing a safe storage for rice on the farms. This is to enable a farmer to store his harvest before it is sold, and also to keep a supply for his own use for many months. A similar construction would also store drinking water.

Ferro-cement has been used to build boats ranging from barges to racing yachts, and recently, a fishing boat has been built at Rayong.

The basis of ferro-cement is a dense matrix of steel wire into which a plasticised cement mortar is pressed by hand. The resulting wall has a thickness of a few centimeters and is very dense, strong and watertight.

In the boat construction, four layers of wire netting on each side of an orthogonal mesh of six m.m. steel rods form the reinforcement, but for the rice bin only one layer of wire netting is used on each side of a framework of 19 m.m. steel pipes and 6 m.m.

Dr. Siribongse Boon-Long, of the Applied Scientific Research Corporation, and Dr. Robert B.L. Smith, Chairman, Structures Engineering Division, Asian Institute of Technology, are seen here inspecting grain samples from the ferro-cement silo which they mutually designed and constructed on the AIT campus. Three tons of grain have been successfully stored in the silo for six months free from pestilence, rodents, birds and water.



Here, Dr. Smith helps technicians from the Applied Scientific Research Corporation of Thailand build a ferro-cement silo at Thailand's Rice Experimental Station at Rangsit. The rice bin is capable of storing six tons of grain. Recently, the Construction Materials Marketing Co. Ltd., a division of the Siam Cement Group, has been promoting the ferro-cement grain bin throughout Asia.

●

rods, the purpose of which is to provide a self-supporting base for the construction. No moulds are required, so that this method has the combined advantages of precast and monolithic reinforced concrete.

The experimental rice bin now under test has a capacity of about 3500 kg. and after four months of storage it shows no deterioration or loss. A new bin of 6000 kg. capacity is under construction at the Rice Experimental Station, Rangsit. These bins have a circular or plain bowl-shaped base which contains a waterproof membrane, and the wall is in the form of a truncated cone with a flat top about 1 metre diameter which incorporates an air-tight lid. The original bin has a base diameter of three metres, and in the new one this is increased to a little over 3 1/2 metres.

The importance of these bins for farm storage may be appreciated when the loss of rice due to insects, birds, fungus attack, rodents and spillage is considered.

It amounts to 10 to 25 per cent, not only in Thailand but in all countries of this region and elsewhere. This means in Thailand a loss of over 2 million tons valued at 100 million dollars.

The Freedom from Hunger Campaign of Thailand has initiated this project through the efforts of Dr. Siribongse Boon-Long, based on research by the Tropical Stored Products Centre of the Ministry of Overseas Development, United Kingdom, which has demonstrated that dried rice stored in hermetically sealed bins will keep for long periods with practically no loss.

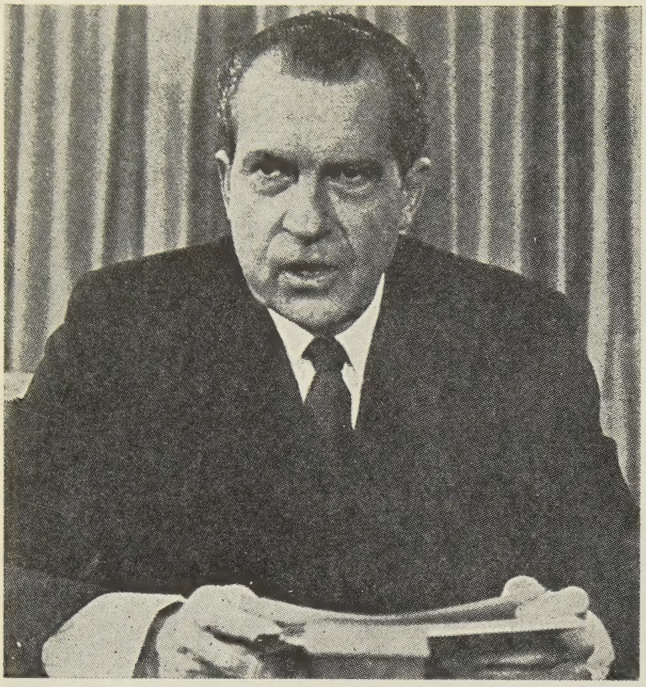
Insects will be present in the rice when put into the bin, but the air-tightness will deprive the insects of renewal of oxygen supply and they soon die.

It has yet to be established whether seed rice remains fertile after such storage.

The cost of the bin now under test was 2,400 baht, of which 36 per cent was the cost of labour. It is considered that this labour cost could be greatly reduced, and almost eliminated since these bins could easily be constructed by farmers in their free time.

Some skilled supervision would be required for training purposes and organization of supplies, although the materials used are such as could be obtained in remote and inaccessible regions, and no heavy plant is required at all.

In conclusion it may be mentioned that the experimental bin has survived an extremely damp rainy season without any adverse effect ot its contents.



'NIXON DOCTRINE' PAVES WAY FOR PEACE

PRESIDENT Nixon's 'Vietnamisation' policy which constituted the main theme of his peace plan speech to the American nation last month won wide approval among statesmen and leaders throughout the world.

The full text of his speech follows:

"Tonight I want to talk to you on a subject that deeply concerns every American and other people throughout the world: the war in Vietnam.

I believe that one of the reasons for the deep division in this nation about Vietnam is that many Americans have lost confidence in what their Government has told them about our policy. The American people cannot and should not be asked to support a policy which involves the overriding issues of war and peace unless they know the truth about that policy.

Tonight I would like to answer some of the questions that I know are on the minds of many of you listening to me.

How and why did America get involved in Vietnam in the first place?

How has this Administration changed the policy of the previous Administration?

What has really happened in the negotiations in Paris and on the battlefront in Vietnam?

What choices do we have if we are to end the war?

What are the prospects for peace?

Let me begin by describing the situation I found when I was inaugurated on January 20:

The war had been going on for four years;

31,000 Americans had been killed in action;

The training programme for the South Vietnamese armed forces was behind schedule;

540,000 Americans were in Vietnam with no plans to reduce the number;

No progress had been made at the negotiations in Paris and the United States had not put forth a comprehensive peace proposal;

The war was causing deep division at home and criticism from many of our friends as well as our enemies abroad.

In view of these circumstances there were some who urged I end the war at once by ordering the immediate withdrawal of all American forces.

...'A policy which will not only help end the war in Vietnam but which is an essential element of our programme to prevent future Vietnams'

From a political standpoint this would have been a popular and easy course to follow. After all, we became involved in the war while my predecessor was in office. I could blame the defeat which would be the result of my action on him and come out as the peacemaker. Some put it quite bluntly: this was the only way to avoid allowing Johnson's war to become Nixon's war.

But I had a greater obligation than to think only of the years of my Administration and the next election. I had to think of the effect of my decision on the next generation and the future of peace and freedom in America and the world.

Let us all understand that the question before us is not whether some Americans are for peace and some against it. The great question at issue is not whether Johnson's war becomes Nixon's war.

The question is: How can we win America's peace?

THE BASIC ISSUE

Let us turn to the fundamental issue. Why and how did the United States become involved in Vietnam in the first place?

Fifteen years ago, North Vietnam, with the logistical support of Communist China and the Soviet Union, launched a campaign to impose a Communist government on South Vietnam by instigating and supporting a revolution.

In response to the request of the Government of South Vietnam, President Eisenhower sent economic aid and military equipment to assist the people of South Vietnam in their efforts to prevent a Communist takeover. Seven years ago, President Kennedy sent 16,000 military personnel to Vietnam as combat advisers. Four years ago, President Johnson sent American combat forces to South Vietnam.

Many believe that President Johnson's decision to send American combat forces to South Vietnam was wrong. Many others—I among them—have been strongly critical of the way the war has been conducted.

But the question today is—now that we are in the war, what is the best way to end it?

In January I could only conclude that the precipitate withdrawal of all American forces from Vietnam would be a disaster not only for South Vietnam but for the United States and for the cause of peace.

For the South Vietnamese, our precipitate withdrawal would inevitably allow the Communists to repeat the massacres which followed their takeover of the North fifteen years ago.

They then murdered more than 50,000 people and hundreds of thousands more died in slave labour camps.

We saw a prelude of what would happen in South Vietnam when the Communists entered the city of Hue last year. During their brief rule there, there was a bloody reign of terror in which some 3,000 civilians were clubbed and shot to death.

With the sudden collapse of our support, these atrocities of Hue would become the nightmare of the entire nation—and particularly for the million and a half Catholic refugees who fled to South Vietnam when the Communists took over the North in 1954.

For the United States, this first defeat in our nation's history would result in a collapse of confidence in American leadership, not only in Asia but throughout the world.

Three American presidents have recognised the great stakes involved in Vietnam and understood what had to be done.

In 1963, President Kennedy said with his characteristic eloquence and clarity, 'We want to see a stable government there carrying on the struggle to maintain its national independence. We believe strongly in that. We're not going to withdraw from that effort. In my opinion for us to withdraw from that effort would mean a collapse not only of South Vietnam, but Southeast Asia, so we're going to stay there.'

WITHDRAWAL PROBLEM

President Eisenhower and President Johnson expressed the same conclusion during their terms of office.

For the future of peace, precipitate withdrawal would thus be a disaster of immense magnitude.

A nation cannot remain great if it betrays its allies and lets down its friends.

Our defeat and humiliation in South Vietnam would without question promote recklessness in the councils of those great powers who have not yet abandoned their goals of world conquest.

This would spark violence wherever our commitments help maintain peace—in the Middle East, in Berlin, eventually even in the Western hemisphere.

Ultimately, this would cost more lives.

It would not bring peace but more war.

For these reasons, I rejected the recommendation that I should end the war by immediately withdrawing all our forces. I chose instead to change American policy on both the negotiating front and the battlefront.

In order to end a war fought on many fronts, I initiated a pursuit for peace on many fronts.

Hanoi has refused even to discuss our proposals. They demand our unconditional acceptance of their terms; that we withdraw all American forces immediately and unconditionally and that we overthrow the Government of South Vietnam as we leave.

Therefore, tonight I am taking the unprecedented step of disclosing some of our other initiatives for peace—initiatives we undertook privately and secretly because we thought that we thereby might open a door which publicly would be closed.

QUEST FOR PEACE

I did not wait for my inauguration to begin my quest for peace.

Soon after my election, through an individual who is directly in contact on a personal basis with the leaders of North Vietnam, I made two private offers for a rapid, comprehensive settlement. Hanoi's replies called in effect for our surrender before negotiations.

Since the Soviet Union furnishes most of the military equipment for North Vietnam, Secretary of State Rogers, my assistant for national security affairs, Dr. Kissinger, Ambassador Lodge, and I, personally have met on a number of occasions with representatives of the Soviet Government to enlist their assistance in getting meaningful negotiations started. In addition we have had extended discussions directed toward that same end with representatives of other governments which have diplomatic relations with North Vietnam. None of these initiatives have to date produced results.

In mid-July, I became convinced that it was necessary to make a major move to break the deadlock in the Paris talks. I spoke directly with an individual who had known Ho Chi Minh on a personal basis for 25 years. Through him I sent a letter to Ho Chi Minh.

I did this outside of the usual diplomatic channels with the hope that with the necessity of making statements for propaganda removed, there might be constructive progress toward bringing the war to an end.

I received Ho Chi Minh's reply on August 30, three days before his death. It simply reiterated the public position North Vietnam had taken in the Paris talks and flatly rejected my initiative. The full text of both letters is being released to the Press. In addition, Ambassador Lodge has met with Vietnam's chief negotiator in Paris in 11 private meetings. We have taken other significant initiatives which must remain secret to keep open some channels of communication which may still prove to be productive.

The effect of all the public, private and secret negotiations, which have been undertaken since the bombing halt a year ago and since this Administration came into office on January 20, can be summed up in one sentence:

No progress whatever has been made except agreement on the bargaining table.

It has become clear that the obstacle in negotiating an end to the war is not the President of the United States. And it is not the South Vietnamese Government.

The obstacle is the other side's absolute refusal to show the least willingness to join us in seeking a just peace. It will not do so while it is convinced that all it has to do is to wait for our next concession, and the next until it gets everything it wants.

ANOTHER PLAN

Let me now turn, however, to a more encouraging report on another front.

At the time we launched our search for peace, I recognised that we might not succeed in bringing an end to the war through negotiation. I, therefore, put into effect another plan to bring peace—a plan which will bring the war to an end regardless of what happens on the negotiating front.

It is in line with a major shift in US foreign policy which I described in my Press conference at Guam on July 25. Let me briefly explain what has been described as the Nixon Doctrine—a policy which not only will help end the war in Vietnam but which is an essential element of our programme to prevent future Vietnams.

We Americans are a do-it-yourself people—an impatient people. Instead of teaching someone else to do a job, we like to do it ourselves. This trait has been carried over into our foreign policy.

In Korea and again in Vietnam, the United States furnished most of the money, most of the arms, and most of the men to help the people of those countries defend their freedom against Communist aggression.

Before any American troops were committed to Vietnam, a leader of another Asian country expressed this opinion to me when I was travelling in Asia as a private citizen: "When you are trying to assist another nation defend its freedom, US policy should be to help them fight the war but not to fight the war for them."

In Guam, I laid down these three pinciples as guidelines for future American policy toward Asia:

1. The United States will keep all of our treaty commitments.

2. We shall provide a shield if a nuclear power threatens the freedom of a nation allied with us or of a nation whose survival we consider vital to our security.

3. In cases involving other types of aggression, we shall furnish military and economic assistance when requested in accordance with our treaty commitments. But we shall look to the nation directly threatened to assume the primary responsibility of providing the manpower for its defence.

NEW POLICY WELCOMED

After I announced this policy, I found that the leaders of the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, South Korea and other nations which might be threatened by Communist aggression welcomed this new direction in American foreign policy.

The Vietnamisation plan was launched following Secretary Laird's visit to Vietnam in March. Under the plan, I ordered a substantial increase in the training and equipment of South Vietnamese forces.

In July, on my visit to Vietnam, I changed General Abrams' orders so that they were consistent with the objectives of our new policy. Under the new orders the primary mission of our troops is to enable the South Vietnamese forces to assume full responsibility for the security of South Vietnam.

Our air operations have been reduced by over 20 per cent.

We have now begun to see the results of this long overdue change in American policy in Vietnam.

After five years of Americans going into Vietnam, we are finally bringing American men home. By December 15, over 60,000 men will have been withdrawn from South Vietnam — including 20 per cent of all of our combat troops.

The South Vietnamese have continued to gain in strength. As a result they have been able to take over combat responsibilities from our American forces.

Two other significant developments have occurred since this Administration took office in January.

Enemy infiltration over the last three months is less than 20 per cent of what it was over the similar period last year.

Most important — United States casualties have declined during the last two months to the lowest point in three years.

SECRET TIMETABLE

I have not and do not intend to announce the timetable for our programme. There are obvious reasons for this decision. As I have indicated on several occasions, the rate of withdrawal will depend on developments on three fronts: One is the progress which may be made at the Paris talks. An announcement of a fixed timetable for our withdrawal would completely remove any incentive for the enemy to negotiate an agreement.

They would simply wait until our forces had withdrawn and then move in.

The other two factors on which we will base our withdrawal decisions are the level of enemy activity and the progress of the training programme of the South Vietnamese forces. Progress on both these fronts has been greater than we anticipated when we started the withdrawal programme in June. As a result, our timetable for withdrawal is more optimistic now than when we made our first estimates in June. This clearly demonstrates why it is not wise to be frozen in on a fixed timetable.

We must retain the flexibility to base each withdrawal decision on the situation as it is at that time rather than on estimates that are no longer valid.

Along with this optimistic estimate, I must—in all candour—leave one note of caution.

If the level of enemy activity significantly increases we might have to adjust our timetable accordingly.

However, I want the record to be completely clear on one point:

At the time of the bombing halt last November there was some confusion as to whether there was an understanding on the part of the enemy that if we stopped the bombing they would stop shelling cities of South Vietnam. I want to be sure there is no misunderstanding on the part of the enemy with regard to our withdrawal programme.

We have noted the reduced level of infiltration and the reduction of our casualties and are basing our withdrawal decisions partially on those factors.

If the level of infiltration or our casualties increase while we are trying to scale down the fighting, it will be the result of a conscious decision by the enemy.

ONLY TWO CHOICES

Hanoi could make no greater mistake than to assume that an increase in violence will be to its own advantage. If I conclude that increased enemy action jeopardises our remaining forces in Vietnam, I shall not hesitate to take strong and effective measures to deal with that situation.

This is not a threat. This is a statement of policy which as Commander-in-Chief of our armed forces I am making in meeting my responsibility for the protection of American fighting men wherever they may be.

I am sure that you can recognise from what I have said that we have only two choices open to us if we want to end the war: I can order an immediate, precipitate withdrawal of all Americans from Vietnam without regard to the effects of that action. Or we can persist in our search for a just peace through a negotiated settlement if possible, or through continued implementation of our plan for Vietnamisation if necessary—a plan in which we will withdraw all of our forces from Vietnam on a schedule in accordance with our programme, as the South Vietnamese become strong enough to defend their own freedom.

I have chosen the second course. It is not the easy way. It is the right way. It is a plan which will end the war and serve the cause of peace—not just in Vietnam but in the Pacific and in the world.

In speaking of the consequences of a precipitate withdrawal, I mentioned that our allies would lose confidence in America.

I would like to address a word to the young people of this nation who are concerned about the war.

I respect your idealism. I share your concern for peace. I want peace as much as you do.

There are powerful personal reasons I want to end this war. This week I will have to sign 83 letters to mothers, fathers, wives and loved ones of men who had given their lives for America in Vietnam. It is very little satisfaction to me that this is only one-third as many as I signed during my first week in office. There is nothing I want more than to see the day come when I no longer need to sign these letters.

I want to end the war to save the lives of those brave young men in Vietnam.

I want to end it in a way which will increase the chance that their younger brothers and their sons will not have to fight in another Vietnam some place in the world.

I want to end the war so that the energy and dedication of our young people, now too often directed into bitter hatred against those they think are responsible for the war, can be turned to the great challenges of peace, a better life for all Americans and for people throughout the world. I have chosen a plan for peace. I believe it will succeed.

And so tonight—to you, the great silent majority of my fellow Americans—I ask for your support.

UNITED FOR PEACE

I pledged in my campaign for the Presidency to end the war in a way that we could win the peace. I have initiated a plan of action which will enable me to keep that pledge.

The more support I can have from the American people, the sooner that pledge can be redeemed; for the more divided we are at home, the less likely the enemy is to negotiate in Paris.

Let us be united for peace. Let us also be united against defeat. Because let us understand: North Vietnam cannot defeat or humiliate the United States. Only Americans can do that.

As President I hold the responsibility for choosing the best path to that goal and then for leading our nation along it.

I pledge to you tonight that I will meet this responsibility with all of the strength and wisdom I can command in accordance with your hopes, mindful of your concerns, sustained by your prayers.

Thanat and Thieu

back Nixon's new policy line

BOTH the Foreign Minister of Thailand, Mr. Thanat Khoman, and South Vietnam's President Nguyen Van Thieu were among statesmen and leaders who hailed president Nixon's 'Vietnamisation' peace plan.

Dr. Khoman said the plan would help to promote and maintain the freedom and independence of nations threatened by communism.

The US President's actions, which he described as 'far-sighted', would, he said, result in the eventual return of permanent peace to the region.

This was in contrast with the near-sighted minority in the United States, which did not understand the interests of the US, he said.

"Mr. Nixon is a respectable statesman who does not bend to pressure from troublemakers," the Foreign Minister said.

"The Communists have purely used the Paris peace talks as a vehicle to rouse American minority groups and get them to pressure their Government to surrender," he said.

"And protest demonstrations only strengthen the enemy's attitude.

"Mr. Nixon's firm stand will surely show the Communists that exploitation of minority groups gets them nowhere."

Brilliant speech

Clearly buoyed by Mr. Nixon's speech, South Vietnam's leaders hinted that US combat troops could be gone by the end of next year and most support troops a year later.

President Nguyen Van Thieu and Vice-President Nguyen Cao Ky hailed Mr. Nixon's decision for a "very orderly and very calculated" troop withdrawal.

Mr. Thieu said the speech was the "greatest and most brilliant I have known a United States President to make."

"Now it is very clear it is not the United States Government and not the Vietnamese Government who are obstacles to peace but the Communists who are the real obstacle, the main obstacle," Mr. Thieu said.

He said he felt that Mr. Nixon would never make troop withdrawals from a "position of weakness" and said that an announcement of further withdrawals was probably "not far away" but refused to say when.

Mr. Thieu said that the timetable of troop withdrawals—which Mr. Nixon would not make public—"depended upon the Communist escalation or de-escalation of the war."

'We have no choice'

"I do not believe that the United States will accept to withdraw all its troops if the Communists escalate the war," Mr. Thieu said.

Vice-President Ky said of Mr. Nixon's speech "he has no choice and we have no choice."

Although he hoped for a negotiated settlement, Mr. Ky said, "if they are ready to fight for 20 years more, we are ready to fight 20 years more."

TWO PRESIDENT

from Nixon to Ho

...DEAR MR. PRESIDENT

I realise that it is difficult to communicate meaningfully across the gulf of four years of war. But precisely because of this gulf, I wanted to take this opportunity to reaffirm in all solemnity my desire to work for a just peace.

I deeply believe that the war in Vietnam has gone on too long and delay in bringing it to an end benefits no one—least of all the people of Vietnam.

My speech on May 14 laid out a proposal which I believe is fair to all parties. Other proposals have been made which attempt to give the people of South Vietnam an opportunity to choose their own future. These proposals take into account the reasonable conditions of all sides. But we stand ready to discuss other programmes as well, specifically the 10-point programme of the NLF.

As I have said repeatedly, there is nothing to be gained by waiting. Delay can only increase the dangers and multiply the suffering.

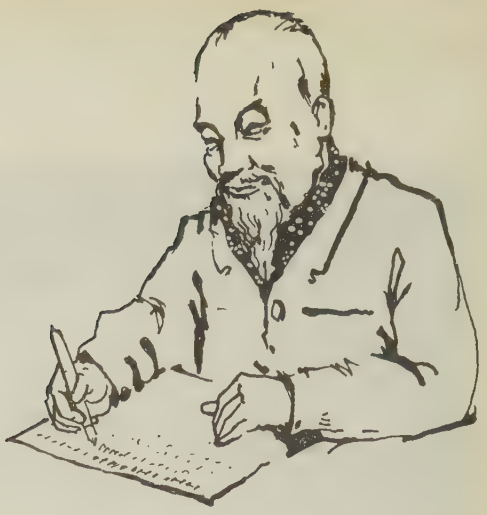
The time has come to move forward at the conference table toward an early resolution of this tragic war. You will find us forthcoming and open-minded in a common effort to bring the blessings of peace to the brave people of Vietnam. Let history record that at this critical juncture, both sides turned their face toward peace rather than toward conflict and war.

Sincerely,
RICHARD NIXON

July 15, 1969.

T PEN TO PAPER

from Ho to Nixon



...MR. PRESIDENT

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter.

The war of aggression of the United States against our people, violating our fundamental national rights, still continues in South Vietnam. The United States continues to intensify military operations, the B52 bombings and the use of toxic chemical products multiply the crimes against the Vietnamese people. The longer the war goes on, the more it accumulates the mourning and burdens of the American people. I am extremely indignant at the losses and destructions caused by the American troops to our people and our country. I am also deeply touched at the rising toll of death of young Americans who have fallen in Vietnam by reason of the policy of American governing circles.

Our Vietnamese people are deeply devoted to peace, a real peace with independence and real freedom. They are determined to fight to the end, without fearing the sacrifices and difficulties in order to defend their country and their sacred national rights. The overall solution in 10 points of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam and of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam is a logical and reasonable basis for the settlement of the Vietnamese problem.

In your letter you have expressed the desire to act for a just peace. For this the United States must cease the war of aggression and withdraw its troops from South Vietnam, respect the right of the population of the South and of the Vietnamese nation to dispose of themselves, without foreign influence. This is the correct manner of solving the Vietnamese problem in conformity with the national rights of the Vietnamese people, the interests of the United States and the hope for peace of the peoples of the world. This is the path that will allow the United States to get out of the war with honour.

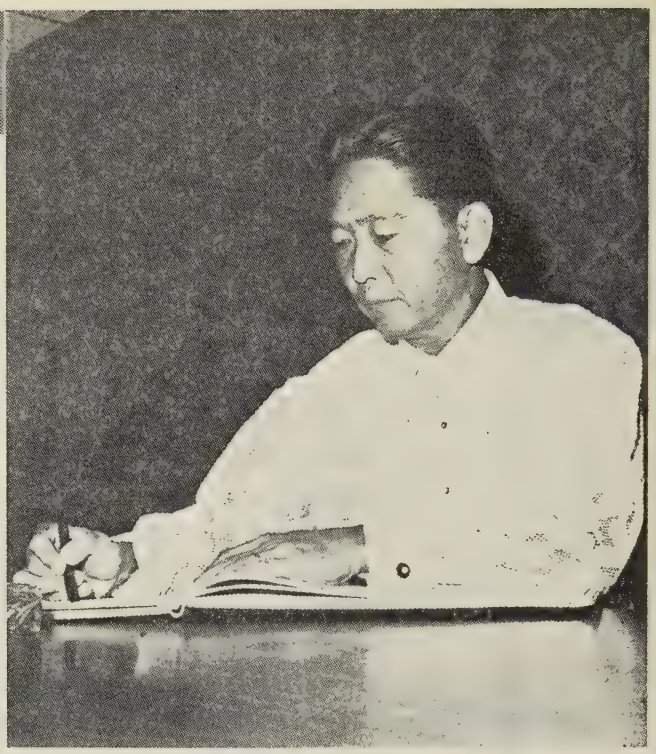
With goodwill on both sides we might arrive at common efforts in view of finding a correct solution of the Vietnamese problem.

Sincerely,
HO CHI MINH

August 25, 1969.

ELECTION TIME IN THE PHILIPPINES

Marcos does it again



IN what was described as 'generally peaceful' elections held on 11 November, Philippine President Ferdinand E. Marcos won his second term of office with a record landslide margin of more than 1.8 million over his opponent, Senator Sergio Osemena, Jr., of the Liberal Party, thus becoming the first Chief Executive in the country's political history since attaining independence to get reelected.

His resounding victory was mainly attributed to the massive socio-economic reforms and infra-structure programmes launched by his administration, particularly in the impoverished rural areas. Indeed, under his administration, the Philippines had an impressive rise in rice-production that not only ended the recurrent rice shortages and the need for rice importations but also attained self-sufficiency, so that for the first time the country was able to export the staple abroad.

...A LANDSLIDE VICTORY

His record also saw the construction of more roads, bridges, hospitals, school houses and irrigation facilities that will go a long way in alleviating the living conditions of the people in the rural areas.

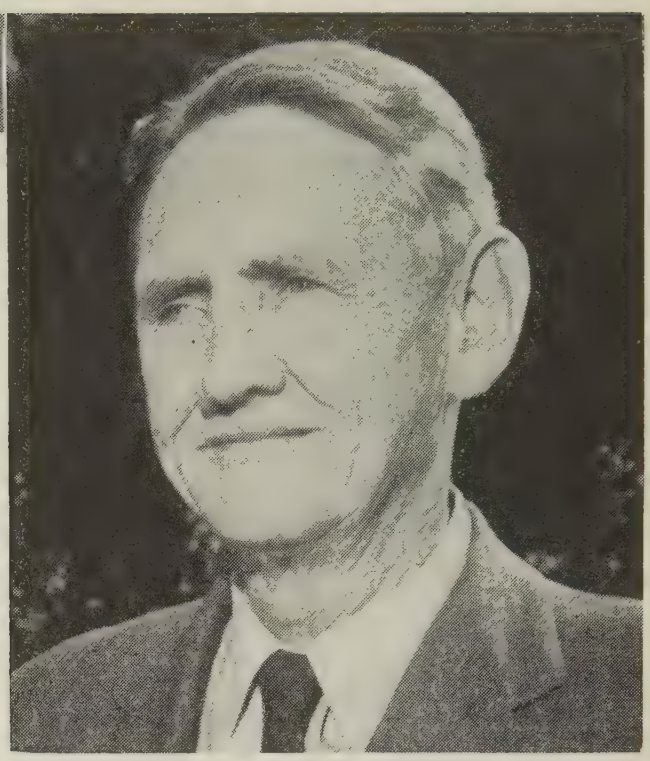
Calling for more self-reliance, he had his campaign geared towards more and more regional co-operation and alliance in Asia and a re-examination of ties with the Western powers, based on mutual respect and understanding.

In his post-election victory announcement, President Marcos vowed to dedicate his next four years of administration to the acceleration of socio-economic reforms, apparently aimed at fully implementing land reform programmes.

President Marcos tries his hand at threshing rice. Rice self-sufficiency was one of the key issues in his election campaign.

ELECTION TIME IN AUSTRALIA

...and so does Gorton



THE return to power of Prime Minister Gorton and his Government following the recent Australian elections—albeit with a somewhat surprising majority cut of from 35 to 7—is of particular significance to Asian countries in that it will mean Australia will continue to pursue a policy aimed at forming closer links with her Asian neighbours.

Had the Labour Opposition Party won, signs would have pointed to a swing away from continued interest and involvement in Asian affairs to a policy tending towards isolationism.

Ready for a change

On the other hand, the reduced majority does not necessarily point to the electorate wanting an 'isolationist' Australia, but rather a desire to see a change from the Liberal Country Party Coalition that has been "in the chair" so to speak, for so long—in fact since 1949.

There have been signs for some time that the country was ready for a change, but the Opposition was unable to evince the confidence of the majority.

Observers and commentators, however, noted that electors were moving towards the side which had been so long out of office. Moreover, to some extent influencing the voters was the fact that the new Labour Leader, Mr. Whitlam, in contrast to his predecessors, was able to give the appearance of a united party.

...BUT WITH A REDUCED MAJORITY

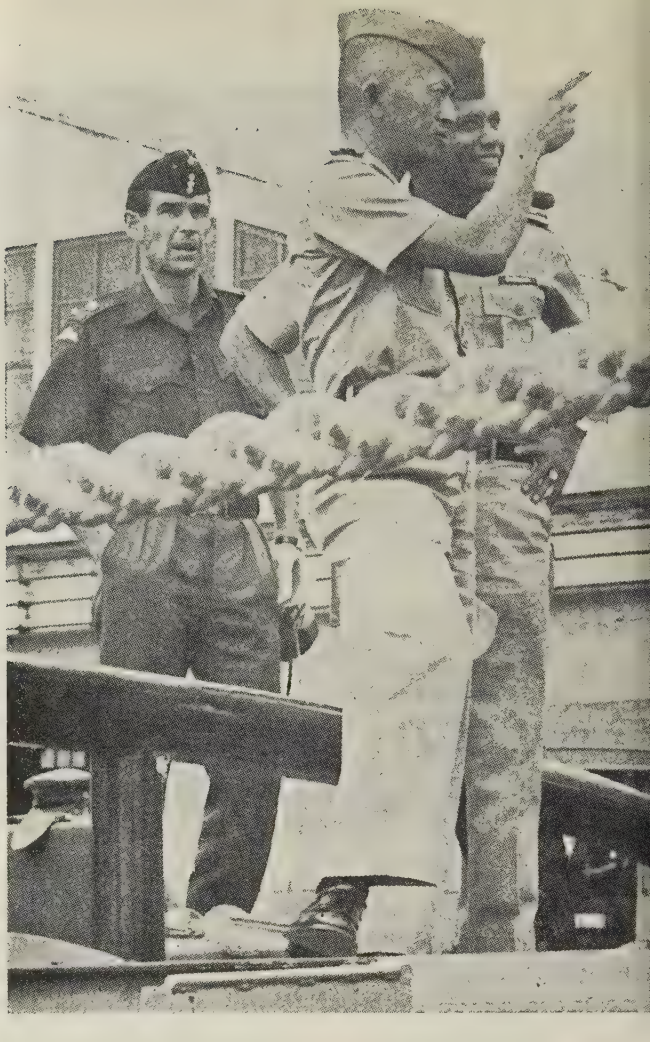
It can be fairly confidently expected, therefore, that at least one result of the elections will be a continued involvement in Asia after the British withdrawal is completed in 1971. Australian aid and trade with her Asian neighbours have already increased considerably over the past few years.

Australian defence thinking is well summed up in the 1969 Australian Defence Report.

Defence report

".....When we talk about security," says the report, "we are by no means talking about specific threats or short-term military considerations, but rather about the complex fabric of an overall rational security policy—expressed in terms of diplomatic activity, military support, technical and military aid, orientation of trade and so forth—which is calculated to contribute to peaceful, constructive change in our region as well as to the protection of countries that want to develop in this way, free of external pressures."

SEATO PUTS 55 OFFICERS IN THE PICTURE



Two Royal Air Force Andover Aircraft from Singapore were used to fly the 55 members of the orientation course to visit various projects up-country including Korat and Chiang Mai.

Briefings, field trips, included in latest course

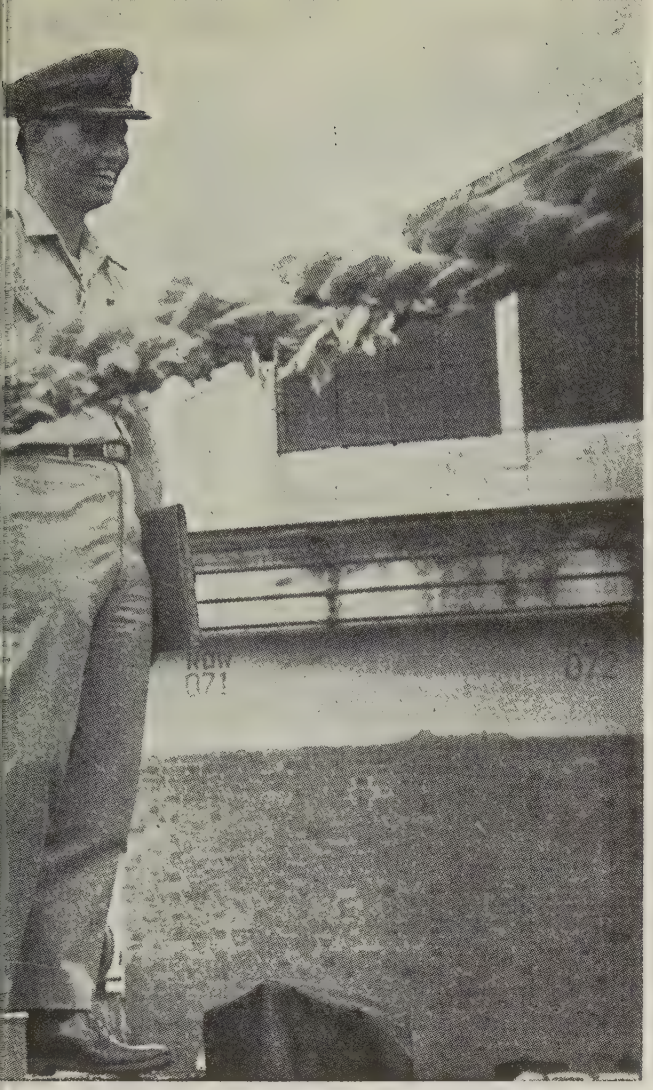
TWO Brigadiers were among 55 senior officers from six SEATO members nations who took part in the Organization's latest orientation course last month.

The course, the third staged by SEATO this year, lasted from November 3 to November 10 and included extensive trips to various military installations in Thailand.

Officers from Australia, New Zealand, France, the Philippines, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States participated. They included Brigadier R.M. Gurr, O.B.E., from New Zealand, Commanding 28th Commonwealth Brigade, and Brigadier, R.E. Worsley, O.B.E., from Headquarters United Kingdom Far East Land Forces at Singapore.

A high-ranking civilian, Mr. J. Dromgoole, a senior adviser to the United Kingdom Commander-in-Chief Far East, also attended.

Two days briefing by the SEATO Military Planning Office at SEATO Headquarters ended with a visit to the Bangkok port facilities at Klong Toey and a trip down river to Samut Prakarn.



"What's that airman doing on the bridge?" Lieut. Col. S.P. Belen (the Philippines) seems to be saying jokingly to Major P.V. Cabinian (the Philippines) on board the tug which took the officers on a tour of Klong Toey docks. On the left is Major M.R.M. Newall (UK) and on the right Capt. Pirote Poonswasd (Thailand).

Then followed the up-country programme, travelling in two Singapore based RAF Andover aircraft. Visits to the bases at U-Tapao, Sattahip, Korat and Nakhon Phanom were followed by briefings from the Governors' representatives at Sakhon Nakhon and Chiang Mai and by Royal Thai Army staff officers.

At Chiang Mai, too, the course watched a demonstration at the Chaiya Police Training Centre and attended a graduation ceremony of recruits to the Border Police Special Action Force.

This last ceremony was particularly memorable in that four of the senior national officers on the course were given the honour of standing in line alongside Police Major General Jamrus Mungkara-

ratana, Deputy Commander of the Provincial Police and sharing in the ceremony of presenting graduation certificates.

The course was also given a comprehensive lecture on the work of the Tribal Research Centre at Chiang Mai, given by the Director, Mr. Wanat Bruksari, and visited the Centre's outdoor and indoor displays.

Throughout the course delegates also learned much from informal individual discussions. They were most hospitably entertained both by Thai Governors and by Thai and United States service commanders.

All delegates left Bangkok at the end of the course emphasising its instructional value and how it had enabled them to see at first hand just what SEATO has come to mean in terms of co-operation, trust, confidence and esprit de corps.

"Slow Ahead Both." Delegates from several Member Nations watch from the bridge as the Bangkok Port Authority tug takes them out into midstream. From left to right are Brigadier R.E. Worsley (U.K.); Cdr. J.S. Oster (US), Mr. J. Dromgoole (UK); and Brig. R.M. Gurr (New Zealand).

THAI MECHANICS (SEATO trained) MOVE INTO TOP GEAR

A SEATO radio team recently took a trip to Korat in Northeastern Thailand to report on some motor mechanics at work. What is so special about these men? one might ask. Well, first of all, motor mechanics — well-trained ones, that is, — are quite special, their supply having yet to catch up with the fabulously increasing number of vehicles being used in this fast-developing country.

Secondly, these men happened to be attending classes at the SEATO Trade School in Korat. They are from the Royal Thai Air Force Base and their knowledge and skill are being improved under an upgrading programme jointly sponsored by the Royal Thai Air Force and the US 388th and 553rd Field Maintenance Squadrons.

Tewin Kankunnark, motor mechanic at RTAFB, and a graduate of the SEATO Trade School is pictured here repairing a vehicle.

●

Ten years ago the shortage of skilled labour in Thailand was acute. The virtual absence of well-trained metal workers, electricians, machinists, motor mechanics, and others presented an obstacle which could seriously jeopardize the implementation of its national development policies. Today, while the shortage is still felt, in both civilian and military sectors, a number of projects designed to relieve the situation have achieved such heartening results that the prospects of Thailand enjoying an adequate supply of skilled manpower are no longer far-fetched. The upgrading programme in Korat, for instance, would not have been possible if the men had to start training from scratch.

The SEATO School in Korat, along with 19 others throughout the country, was set up under the SEATO Skilled Labour Project, which was formulated and launched in 1959. Eight thousand students are now enrolled in these schools every year and the number of skilled tradesmen and technicians produced under the programme has exceeded 12,000. The operation of the project has now been turned over to the Thai Government and SEATO has gone on to other projects needing its assistance.

●

Mr. S. Razi Tirmazi, Assistant SEATO TV/ Radio Officer, interviewing Mrs. Betty Bell, Chief of Employee and Career Development Section of the Civilian Personnel Office of the US Squadrons stationed at the Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base.

Thai VIPs visit MTTS

TO observe at first hand the activities of the Military Technical Training School—a joint Australian-Thai project under SEATO—a group of 40 high-ranking officers from the Thai Supreme Command headed by General Chitti Navisthira, Deputy Minister of Defence, and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, visited the School last month.

The group was first of all briefed by the Commandant of the School, Air Vice-Marshal Chamrat Vinagupta who later conducted the visitors on a tour of the extensive workshops where they were able to see students at work on all phases of their training.

The Thai officers talked to a number of the trainees and instructors in charge of the various sections.

Air Vice-Marshal Chamrat said this was the first time in the history of the School that it had been honoured by the visit of such a high-ranking officer from the Ministry of Defence as General Chitti and it was an indication of the rising importance which the Ministry attributed to the role played by fully-qualified mechanics in the Armed Forces of the country.

●

Pictured here is Air Vice-Marshal Chamrat Vinagupta, Commandant of the Military Technical Training School, giving a two-hour briefing on its aims and activities to the visiting group of high-ranking officers from Thailand's Ministry of Defence. The group later toured the extensive workshops and talked to trainees.

Above, General Chitti Navisthira, Deputy Minister of Defence and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, watches trainee Prayote Tadtiemporn working on a crank-shaft grinding machine in the motor mechanics training shop. On the right is Air Vice-Marshal Chamrat Vinagupta. Extreme left is Lieut. Uthai Chamyam, RTN, an instructor.

IN FOCUS

MILITARY ADVISERS: CHANGES POSE A NEW CHALLENGE

THE 31st conference of the SEATO Military Advisers, held at headquarters in Bangkok at the end of October, was characterised by the usual smart turn out of top military officers who came to discuss, revise and review military plans and strategy for the defence of the Treaty Area.

This conference was a particularly important one, coming at a time of pending military policy changes in the region. Defence talks between New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore and the United Kingdom; Britain's phased withdrawal of forces from the region; America's 'Vietnamisation' policy concerning the Vietnam war. All of these were among factors which had to be taken into careful consideration by SEATO's Military Advisers while reviewing future actions necessary for the defence of the Treaty Area.

around the table...

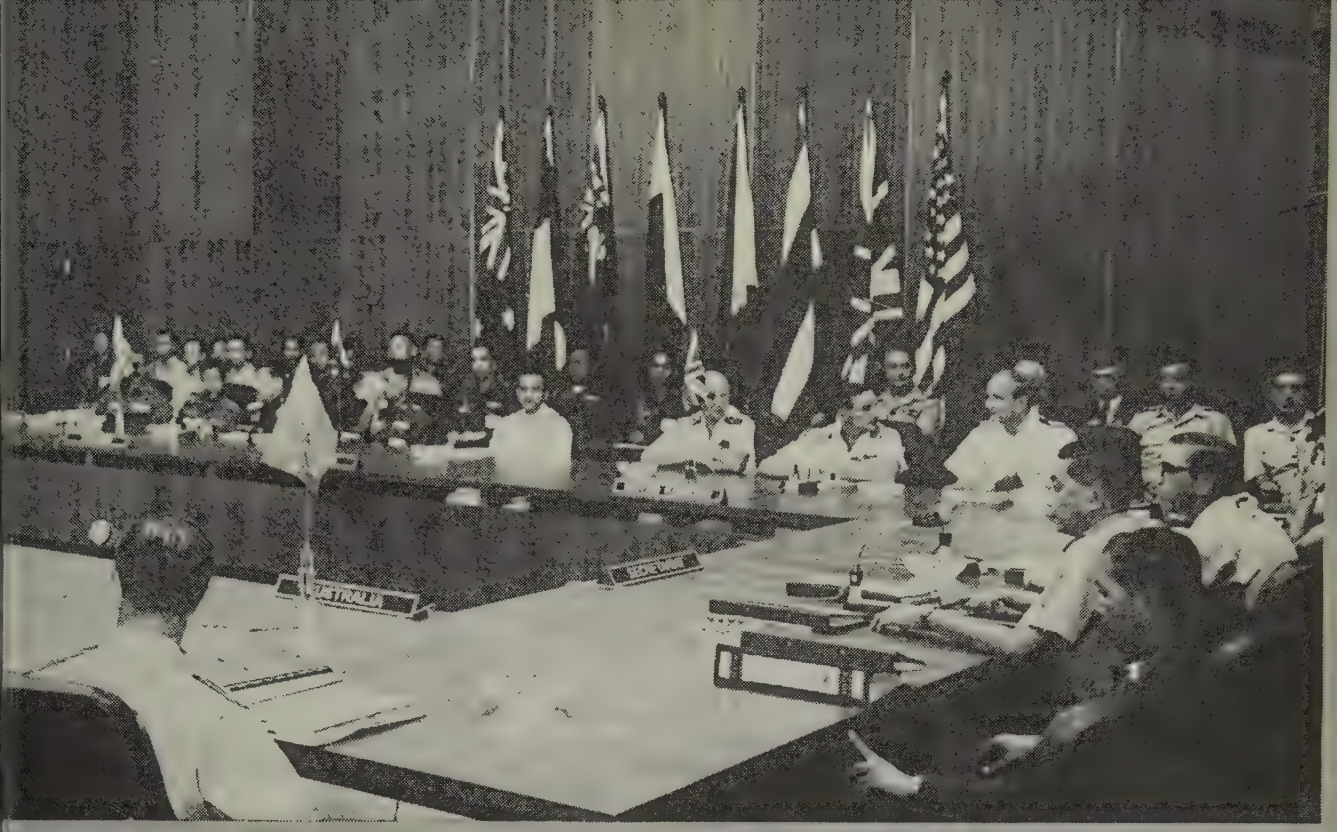
Admiral John S. McCain Jr., the U.S. Military Adviser and American Commander-in-Chief, Pacific, who chaired the meeting, hinted strongly himself at a press conference the importance the Military Advisers attached to recent developments in the area and said that Vietnam would be at the top of the agenda for discussions.

A ceremony to mark the opening of

on parade...

Pictured left is a contingent the Royal Thai Air Force in sm blue and white tunics who provided guard of honour at the saluting ceremo held in front of SEATO Headquart on the morning of the meeting.

Admiral John S. McCain, U.S. Commander-in-Chief, Pacific, pictured here taking the salute with Chief, SEATO Military Planning Off Lieut. Gen. Autrey J. Maroun.



the conference was held at SEATO Headquarters when flags of Member Nations and that of the South-East Asia Treaty Organization were unfurled on arrival of the delegates. Among those attending the ceremony were the Military Advisers; the Secretary-General of SEATO, Lieutenant-General Jesus Vargas, and the Chief, Military Planning Office, Major-General Autrey J. Maroun.

After discussing the Communist threat to the Treaty Area and the actions necessary for its defence, the work of the SEATO Military Planning Office was reviewed and updated in the light of regional developments.

This wide-angle view shows delegates seated round the conference table in the Council Chamber prior to the opening of the first session.

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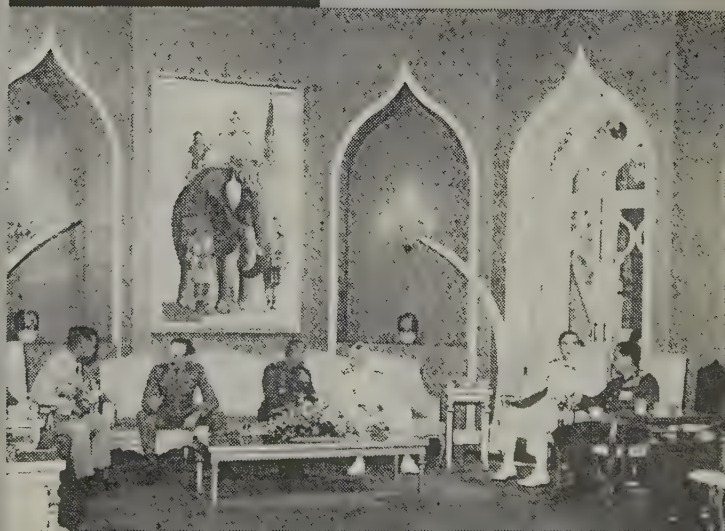
Prior to the meeting the Military Advisers were guests of Thailand's Prime Minister, Field Marshal Thanom Kittikachorn. They are pictured here together relaxing at Government House.

at attention...

at ease...



Communique stresses need for vigilance

THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE 31st CONFERENCE OF THE SEATO MILITARY ADVISERS HELD IN BANGKOK, AT THE END OF OCTOBER:

Military Advisers of the South-East Asia Treaty Organization concluded their Thirty-First Conference at SEATO Headquarters, Bangkok today (October 31). The Conference Chairman was Admiral J.S. McCain, Jr., Military Adviser for the United States.

The need to sustain the military effectiveness of SEATO to counter continuing and widespread Communist subversion, insurgency and open aggression in the Treaty Area was stressed by the Military Advisers.

The SEATO Secretary-General, Lieutenant-General Jesus M. Vargas, addressed the Military Advisers on the current political situation in the Treaty Area, emphasizing that Communist insurgency and subversion in the free countries of South-East Asia would continue regardless of the outcome of the Paris Peace Talks.

General Vargas continued that there had been some significant changes in the political situation in the Republic of South Vietnam including success by President Thieu in marshalling non-Communist political forces. He said that the creation by the Communists of a "Provisional Revolutionary Government" was clearly to obtain political leverage.

The Military Adviser for Thailand, Air Chief Marshal Dawee Chullasapya, briefed the Conference on the current situation concerning Communist terrorist activities in Thailand.

He confirmed that external support of the Communist terrorist movement in Thailand was still evident. Border infiltration had been noted in the North and North-East, particularly in the North-East. Air Chief Marshal Dawee said that if the position in Laos were to deteriorate, the current situation in Thailand could drastically worsen.

In the South, although the situation had reached some degree of seriousness, the Royal Thai Government had, on the whole, been able to keep it under control.

In his presentation, Admiral John S. McCain Jr., United States Military Adviser, emphasized again the vital importance of SEATO in meeting the Communist threat in the South-East Asia region. He then reviewed

progress in the Republic of South Vietnam, noting that the Free World forces had continued to counter successfully the enemy's effort on the battlefield.

The Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army had been defeated in every significant engagement and had sustained heavy casualties and equipment losses. Admiral McCain said that during the first eight months of 1969, the enemy had sustained over 210,000 casualties and lost more than 50,000 weapons.

Admiral McCain described the considerations which led to the redeployment of United States troops and how the South Vietnamese Forces were assuming an increasing share of combat operations while achieving progress in pacification.

Following a report by the Chief of the SEATO Military Planning Office, Major-General Autrey J. Maroun, on the work carried out by the SEATO Military Planning Office since the last Conference, the Military Advisers reviewed SEATO military defensive plans in the light of the current threat. They gave direction to the Military Planning Office for tasks to be carried out before the next meeting.

The Conference agreed that there would be two SEATO Exercises in 1970 and approved a forecast of the Exercises to be held until June 1975.

The Military Advisers agreed to hold their next Meeting in the Philippines immediately before the SEATO Council Meeting proposed for April 1970.

Military advisers attending the Conference were:

General Sir John Wilton, KBE, CB, DSO, Chairman of the Australian Chiefs of Staff Committee; Major-General R.B. Dawson, CB, CBE, DSO, Chief of the New Zealand General Staff; General Manuel T. Yan AFP, Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines; Air Chief Marshal Dawee Chullasapya, Chief of Staff, Supreme Command, Royal Thai Armed Forces; Admiral Sir Peter Hill-Norton, KCB, United Kingdom Commander-in-Chief Far East; Admiral John S. McCain, Jr., United States Commander-in-Chief, Pacific (Chairman); and Captain Ikramul Haq Malik, The Pakistan Military Adviser's Representative, (Observer).

ITEMS IN BRIEF

Colonel Roberto C. Victorino (right), of the Philippines Constabulary who has been Head of Secretariat in the SEATO Military Planning Office for the last three years handed over his position recently to Major Weera Sewikul, Royal Thai Army, at the end of the 31st Military Advisers' Conference.

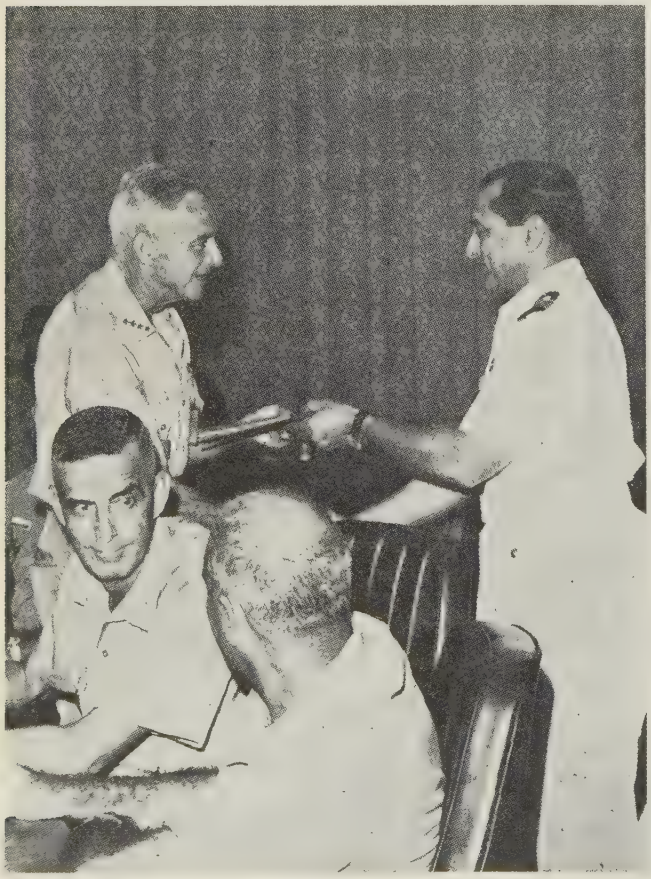
As Head of Secretariat, Colonel Victorino has played a vital role in

the successful running of the bi-annual Military Advisers Meetings—a point which Admiral John S. McCain, Jr., United States Military Adviser and Conference Chairman commented on at the closing session.

● Admiral John S. McCain, Jr., United States SEATO Military Adviser and Chairman for the 31st Military Advisers Conference presented at the closing session of the Conference a testimonial for Vice Admiral S.M. Ahsan, who relinquished the position of Pakistan Military Adviser on August 21.

The new Pakistan Military Adviser is Vice-Admiral Muzaffar Hasan, Commander-in-Chief of the Pakistan Navy.

In the picture below Captain I.H. Malik (right), the Pakistan Military Adviser's Representative at SEATO Headquarters, who attended the Conference as an observer, accepts the testimonial on behalf of Admiral Ahsan. In the foreground is Lieut. Col. J.C. Stanfield (left), United States, and the Chief of the Military Planning Office, Major General Autrey J. Maroun.



NEW PAKISTAN MILITARY ADVISER

VICE-Admiral Muzaffar Hasan, the new Pakistan Military Adviser to SEATO, has had a long and distinguished Military career. Born in 1921, he joined the Royal Indian Navy in 1943. On completion of basic training he saw active service in the Indian Ocean during the Second World War.

After the war, he specialized in Communications and in 1956 attended the Joint Services Staff Course at Latimer in the United Kingdom.

Vice-Admiral Muzaffar's appointments at sea include the command of destroyers, a cruiser, and that of the Pakistan Navy Flotilla. Ashore he has commanded major training establishments, including the Naval Academy. He has served at National Headquarters as a Director, Deputy Chief of Naval Staff, and Chief of Staff.

He was promoted to Captain in 1958, to Commodore in 1964 and Flag rank in 1969. Vice-Admiral Muzaffar Hasan assumed command of the Pakistan Navy in September 1969.

TRIBAL RESEARCH ADVISER RETURNS TO AUSTRALIA

PICTURED here boarding the train from Chiang Mai to Bangkok are Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hinton, who left last month for Sydney after four years in Thailand.

Australian anthropologist Peter Hinton came here in 1966 to serve as Adviser to the Hill Tribes Research Centre in the northern city of Chiang Mai under the SEATO-Australian assistance programme to Thailand.

In 1967 his assignment was extended to enable him to carry out a study of the Karen, the largest tribe inhabiting northern Thailand. He has been appointed Lecturer in Anthropology at the University of Sydney, where he graduated in 1962.

Mr. Hinton is expected to return to Thailand in January next year to present a paper at a seminar on shifting agriculture in northern Thailand, which will be held at the Research Centre and sponsored by Thailand's Department of Land Development.

There have been three Australian anthropologists and one agricultural officer working at the Centre. The Australian Government has also made arrangements whereby Thai officials are given the opportunity for further study and training in Australia.

One of these officials from the Centre, Mr. Snit Wongprasert, left Bangkok last month for the University of Sydney, where he will be spending the next three years working for a Master's degree in anthropology. He is the second person to have done so; the first trainee, Mr. Nusit Chindasri, has been at Sydney University for three years and is expected to return to Thailand some time next year.

Mr. Snit, a graduate of Thammasat University in Social Administration, has received training as research assistant to British anthropologist Anthony Walker, working closely with him on the study of the Lahu, one of the main tribes of northern Thailand.

Mr. Snit Wongprasert, is pictured here (left) talking to Mr. John Barich of Australia, at present SEATO Conference Officer in Bangkok.

"THE FILIPINO HAS EVOLVED HUNDREDS OF FOLK DANCES OF WHICH HE IS JUSTLY PROUD BECAUSE THEY ARE TRULY NATIVE IN CHARM AND SIMPLICITY,"... SAYS TITA M. DATU IN THIS ARTICLE ON THE HISTORICAL TRADITIONS, ASPIRATIONS AND WAY OF LIFE OF A PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN INSPIRED OVER THE YEARS TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES IN THIS COLOURFUL ART FORM.

...ON WITH THE DANCE

A COUNTRY'S folk dance is identified with its history and aspirations, as it captures the very hearthrob of a nation. The Filipino has evolved hundreds of folk dances of which he is justifiably proud, because they are truly native in charm and simplicity.

The Philippine folk dance is, in a sense, a retracing of a people's culture over the centuries—each movement reminiscent of influences in various stages of its history which have been absorbed into a motif that can be described as truly Filipino. Every Filipino folk dance unravels a native story. To watch young dancers interpret a folk dance is to be involved in the blending of colour and sound, with the movements of graceful limbs and attractive costumes.

...the rhyth

As varied as the 7,100 green islands comprising the Philippines, its folk dances are rich in variety, one dance having as many as fifteen versions The ingenuity of the Filipino is revealed in every dance. He has an inherent liking and capacity for the dance. He finds no occasion too trivial for it. The Filipino dances range from those celebrating victory in war or success in love to sorrow in death. They could be expressions of joy or exultation of thanksgiving or rejoicing over a good harvest.

The Filipino folk dance can be ceremonial as in those performed in festivals or as offerings to a god. The most common theme, however, deals with courtship and love.

Some of the dances are delightfully entertaining such as the *itik-itik* which is a playful imitation of the waddling duck with its snappy gestures. Another mimics *tuba* gatherers and potmakers at their chores. In the

Here Ifugao maidens perform the ritual dance 'Bumayah' to celebrate a good harvest. The dance recounts the origin of rice as told in the epic, the Hudhud.

HARVEST DANCE

f a nation

Mountain Province, where the scent of the pines mingles with the cool mountain air, the local schools have taken the initiative in preserving the native dances through holding annual dance festivals.

The native dance of these people from the highlands is characterized by a spiral pattern as the dancers follow the leader. They dance to the accompaniment of the native gong called a *gansa*, which is played by the dancers themselves.

The dances of the Benguet maids depict the slow, delicate steps the women take as they go down the steep mountain sides or pick their way gingerly over the stony narrow paths, with native baskets slung over their shoulders. The dancers hum in rhythm to the tempo of the *Benguet pak-kong*, a bamboo node split on the sides and struck against the palm of the hand to produce sound.

The *Bumayah* is a ritual dance of the Ifugaos to celebrate a good harvest. The dance recounts the origin of rice as told in the epic, the *Hudhud*. Bold forward steps and eagle-like motions depict the strength and courage which the Ifugaos have inherited from their legendary heroes. The male dancers make full steps, half steps or

Above, a Maranaw woman performs an authentic Muslim dance. The Maranaws are a colourful Muslim tribe inhabiting the provinces of Lanao.

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In the picture below boys are performing the Pukol Maglalatik, a dance which literally means the clicking together of coconut shells.

short hops while dipping or flapping their extended arms. Simultaneously the women slowly push their toes with both feet flat on the ground, towards the male dancers.

The Bontocs are a brave and warlike tribe with a strong belief in spirit worship. Their ceremonies are performed primarily to appease the spirits of the dead, whom they believe to have power over their lives. Several years ago, Bontoc tribesmen were engaged in bloody battles and headhunting sprees triggered by tribe rivalry or vendetta. From these originated the *Pattong* or the Bontoc war dance, which was performed before a fight to ask for the protection of their ancestors.

Farming influences

In Central Luzon with its rich fertile plains, and where consequently agriculture is the basic means of livelihood, there is a proliferation of mimetic dances showing a cycle of activities in rice production, such as the *Magtatahip* (winnowing) and the *Bayuhan* (pounding).

The most popular folk dance, the *Tinikling*, originates from this region. It is accentuated by the clashing of bamboo poles which demands timing and

The La Jota, a popular dance at social gatherings, stems from traditional Ilocano and Spanish cultures. A rather elongated form of bamboo castanets provides the rhythm.

●

precision, blended with grace from the dancers as they step to the tune of the lively tinikling music. The dance imitates the tikling (heron) as it passes in between blades of grass.

The *Binasuan-Kurakaret-Pinandanggo* are the dances from Pangasinan, a province of Central Luzon. In the Pinandanggo, the dancers trying to out-do each other in balancing grasses on the hand, palms, forehead, feet, or on the back of the neck. The girls twirl, spin and roll on the ground while the boys do acrobatics. The *Pukol-Maglalatik* is a dance which literally means coconut shells clicked together. Maglalatik is a mock fight between boys using coconut shells fastened around the bodies of the dancers which are struck in time to a fast-stepping tune.

These dances have patterns which can be traced to the Spanish influence. Understandably, more than three centuries of Spanish rule has left its imprint on Filipino customs and traditions.

Surviving the past and the last war, these influences are much in evidence in the existence of Spanish homes with balconies and verandas and ancient churches done in Spanish architecture.

Bold colours

The local folk dances of the Christian majority occupying the lowlands reflect the pomp and grandeur of the Spanish grand balls graced by charming señors and blushing señoritas.

The costumes are massive and bulky, the steps fast and keen and the colours strikingly bold. These are exemplified in the *Surtido* and the *Cariñosa*.

The outstanding ability of the Filipino to select what is good and beautiful, and adopt these to the native movements have enhanced the richness of our dances. It is notable how the *malagueñas*, the *rigodons* and *fandanggos* and the popular dances like the *mazurka*, *paso-doble* and the *polka* and the *waltz* have become very much Filipino when assimilated into the Filipino dance. True, the original movements are still obvious, but soft and gay motions have replaced the harsher Spanish tempo and the rapid twists and turns which mark Spanish dances.

The *La Jota* is a favourite at social gatherings. One of the more popular versions is the *La Jota Moncadeña*, which got its name from the place of origin, Moncada, Tarlac—making it a combination of Ilocano and Spanish cultures. Elongated bamboo castanets provide the rhythm.

In the dances of the Southern Philippines, East Indian influences are predominant. This can be detected in several steps of the *Kandingan* where the dancers have their knees bent and turned outward and their fingers held stiffly together Indian fashion.

The *Sua-Sua*, the Moro dance from Sulu which portrays courtship have the couple dancing with open fans to the accompaniment of a song.

With a background of colourful Moro vintas which skim the Sulu seas, and the Moro pearl divers, with their brown bodies going in and out of Sulu waters, the Muslim dances recall their tradition of local chief and barangays.

A most colourful and interesting dance is the *Singkil*. It is a dance of royalty. Every woman of royal blood has to learn this dance.

Bracelets

Heavy bracelets called singkils are worn by the dancer to grace her anklets. She passes through bamboos criss-crossed in star formation. She dexterously manipulates with her hand two richly embroidered fans.

Another member of the royal court, but with a lower rank, stands behind her holding an umbrella over her head. This umbrella is symbolic of the power and rank of the princess.

This dance has always been performed in private because royalty can always be entertained but it can never entertain.

One of the most popular folk dances in the Philippines is the Tinikling which originates from the fertile Plains of Central Luzon. The dance which imitates a tikling (heron) as it walks between long blades of grass is being performed by a group in the picture above.

Each Filipino region is represented by a native dance which reveals the aspirations, dreams and hopes of the people, receptive to its own peculiar set of influences. These dances enrich the Filipino culture which is alive, dynamic and vibrant. Folk dances are part of the national heritage asserting itself into the present and helping to fashion the shape of the country's future.

THE MODERN MEDIA METHOD ...and the seven dying imperialisms

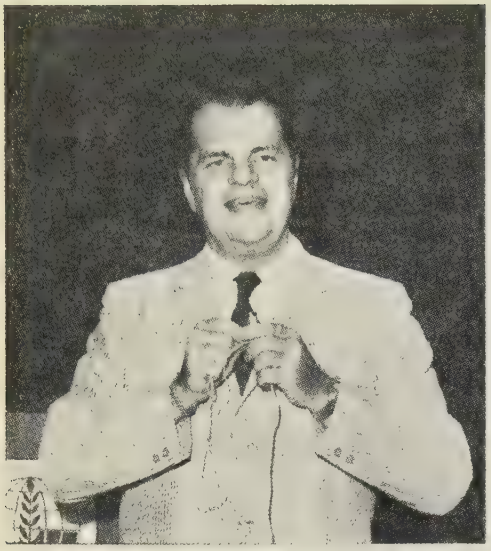
'We live in an open society, where there is a tremendous flood of all sorts of information — good and bad, positive and negative — competing and clamouring for attention, with the bad-negative kind of information being given the most publicity. This is so in the United States, in Thailand, the Philippines and all other countries with open means of communication. It is not so with our competitors in ideas and ideologies: Hanoi, Peking, Moscow; these can show their positive and not show their negative. So the first thing we must understand is that we do have this disadvantage in the field of information and propaganda. It does not mean that we lose the competition. But it does mean that we have to be realistic.'

THE above is a resumé of the opening theme in a two-hour talk on competing ideas and ideologies given recently at SEATO by Mr. Charles Vetter, US Information Service Regional Training Officer, Far East (Manila).

Space does not permit giving a full account of the talk, nor doing justice to Mr. Vetter's choice examples, apt quotations, expressive gestures, or humourous anecdotes — told in various colourful accents with which Mr. Vetter sprinkled his talk, making it one of the most entertaining as well as edifying lectures ever given in the SEATO auditorium under the SEATO lectureship programme.

Negative kinds of information; emphasis on problems; our organizations, Mr. Vetter said, must help the people to understand that by "getting the problems up on the surface," they can be attacked and corrected. This was the strength of an open society, but at the same time the people should also be helped to anticipate new problems' which are often the results of successful solutions of old ones. "We

'SUCH A PLEASURE MEETING YOU, GENERAL'



'I MEAN THE YES, BUT, APPROACH'

tend to forget the successes," Mr. Vetter said, "because we are so often pre-occupied with the on-going problems." The people must be helped to see that these are the problems "of real success, real human improvements of life, liberating millions of people from toil, from drudgery, from lack of dignity."

"The Communist terrorists have a simple task compared with us," Mr. Vetter pointed out. "They have only to project their achievements, and their simplified missions. They don't have to worry about toilets for the people, about administration, about efficiency reports, about accountability to the Budget Bureau...

"This brings us to the difficulties in communication," Mr. Vetter reminded his audience, which was made up mostly of information officers and other media men, "that even when people are speaking the same language, using the same terms, their background and cultural history may cause them to attach different meanings to what they are saying." The simple word 'homely' meant one thing in English English and another—not at all so comforting—in American English. The term 'political parties' may conjure up a set of pictures to an American citizen but they were not the same pictures as seen by a Frenchman.

And there was also the difficulty of matching one's actions to one's words. Many a time, Mr. Vetter said, he had seen an official going to a village and saying: 'I'm here to help you and you listen! Now listen to me, you are doing it all wrong! When are you going to do these things you said you were going to do?'

"I have seen this happen so many times," Mr. Vetter added. "People's actions and people's words not corresponding, creating not only misunderstanding, but sometimes hate."

Most important of all, Mr. Vetter said, we should not forget that there has been, there is, a communication revolution which is creating more alternatives for more people, and that at every level of life, what people see, think, and feel, are changing very drastically as a result of this revolution.

"And if people in a position of leadership and communications do not understand these changes, they do not understand their audience, their reactions, their hopes, their aspirations, and how they behave," Mr. Vetter emphasised.

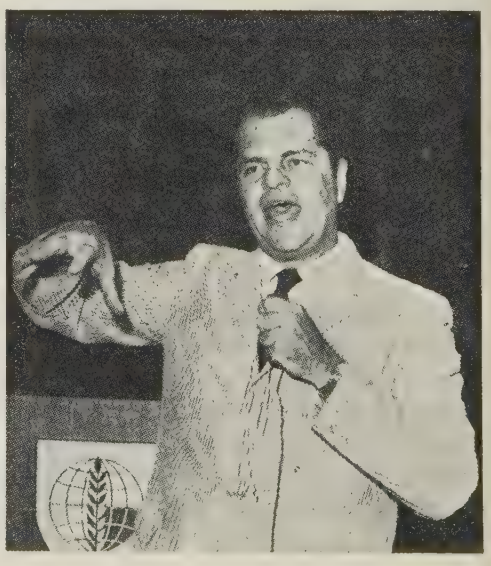
The dying process

What had these changes brought about? he asked. From his observations over the years, from experience gained in every part of the world, Mr. Vetter said he had compiled a list of what he called his 'Seven Dying Imperialisms', with all the changes he talked about serving actively in the dying process.

First on his list was colonialism. To people who might say 'what about neo-colonialism? Isn't the United States dominating Vietnam with its money, its military, etc.?' Mr. Vetter said he would retort: "If you want to see a frustrated man, go and talk to an American who is working in Vietnam, where he will say something to a Vietnamese, and the Vietnamese *may* answer, *may* listen, or *may* say nothing and walk away... The United States cannot control the Philippines. Russia is having a great deal of difficulty dominating Czechoslovakia..."

Along with colonialism or international dictatorship, national dictatorship was second on his list.

'NOW LET ME SEE IF I CAN DO THIS WITH A WORD'



'YOU GO VERY QUIETLY, WAY AROUND, AND...'

This was also on the wane, according to Mr. Vetter. Groups that used to be dominated and have had no voice are standing up, here, there, everywhere. The other five dying imperialisms included group or class domination; parental dictatorship; marriage dictatorship—the male partner no longer in the unassailable dominating position; academic dictatorship; and bureaucratic dictatorship.

Mr. Vetter warned his audience that changes in the people's attitudes inherent in all these dying imperialisms and their implications to the world of competing ideas were being exploited by the Communists, who were saying to the poor villagers: 'You have dignity, you are intelligent; organize and look down on these bad people.'

Organization and dignity

"It is up to us, in order to project our best alternative to communism, to understand first of all the psychology of totalitarian systems—communism and fascism included—that while they may give people false hopes and promises, they also very often give them organization and dignity; and while they may present only a small variety of alternatives they do it in a clear, simple way which has a great appeal to people in a world that seems very confused to them.

"It is up to us to make the people realize that variety of choice need not be confusing. Because," Mr. Vetter stressed, "one thing that happens in an open society: You are not limited to one way of solving problems.

"As a matter of fact, much of what we are fighting for today is to keep the door open to diversity. Not to come to one system, one organization, one concept; but to recognize that the more people, the more ideas, the more co-operations... you have for problems for your society—you have a much better chance of getting answers."

Mr. Vetter said he personally believed "that the greatest problems Thailand, the Philippines, Pakistan, and the United States are going to have are not going to be monetary, but philosophical, spiritual, emotional, sociological problems." In other words, "how to live together, and how to maintain one's human identity in the space age as life gets more technological and impersonal."

Here again Mr. Vetter put his faith in our open society, where in all areas of life, from management to military to religious, responsible leaders were trying to reach deeper to people's desires, perceptions and reactions.

Tremendous promise

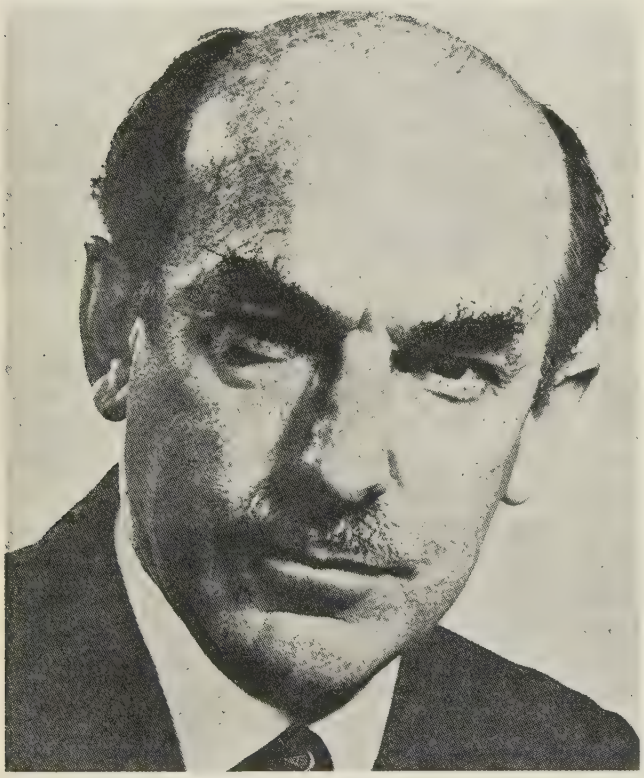
"Here is where the open society with much variety has tremendous promise and all you have to do is look and see the human progress that has taken place in countries where you have this tremendous opportunity of diversity, of difference..."

There had been progress." But how to get all this across? Mr. Vetter concluded his talk on the complex mixture of propaganda, agitation and education, warning against giving complicated material to simple people and vice versa, and advocating the analysis of audiences.

"We are propagandists all," according to Mr Vetter, but he said he had found through experience that the most succesful formula of communication is 30 per cent propaganda and 70 per cent education—plus service.

'AND MY SECOND DYING IMPERIALISM IS...'

New SEATO Deputy Secretary General named



SEATO Secretary-General, Lieut. General Jesus Vargas, announced last month that Mr. Robert Hyslop of Australia (pictured above) has been appointed to the position of Deputy Secretary-General of the South-East Asia Treaty Organization in succession to the late Mr. David Wraight of New Zealand.

Mr. Wraight, who passed away on November 4, had been due to leave SEATO this month on retirement leave.

Mr. Hyslop will take up his position in January.

General Vargas said he was pleased that the Australian Government had found it possible to nominate such an outstanding officer as Mr. Hyslop.

Mr. Hyslop is 50 years of age and is at present an Assistant Secretary, Department of Navy. He is currently on study leave at the Australian National University in Canberra where he is engaged in research and writing on Naval Administration. He is an Associate of the Australian Society of Accountants, a member of the Royal Institute of Public Administration and a member of the Australian Computer Society.

Mr. Hyslop is a graduate of the Australian Administrative Staff College and of the Joint Services Staff College, Latimer, United Kingdom.

General Vargas said that Mr. Hyslop has had a long and varied experience of administration in the Department of Navy including supervision of integrated staffs of civilians and servicemen.

Holyoake is elected Premier fourth time

ON November 29 Mr. Keith Holyoake, Prime Minister of New Zealand, led his National Government to its fourth successive victory. This creates a record in modern New Zealand politics.

The National Party has been in office in New Zealand for 17 of the past 20 years and is now assured of a further three-year term.

Mr. Holyoake is now in his 32nd year as a member of the New Zealand Parliament. His record of service, 19 years as a Minister of the Crown, Deputy Leader and then Leader of his Party, and Prime Minister, is surpassed by only one previous Prime Minister.

Mr. Holyoake has long been a strong supporter of SEATO. At the 14th SEATO Council Meeting in Bangkok last May he said: "Through its economic and cultural activities SEATO has played an important part in helping promote progress and increased understanding between member countries. The progress that has been made has been possible only because governments have been secure against aggression and the threat of attack".

With Mr. Holyoake's re-election, New Zealand is pledged to continue its support for SEATO. The National Government during the election campaign promised to advance the security and stability of South-East Asia and the South Pacific and pledged to support active aid programmes and collective defence arrangements including SEATO.

Hunting down 'villains' with wings

THE scores of projects carried out by the SEATO Medical Research Laboratory and the SEATO Clinical Research Centre are described each year in their Annual Progress Report. This year it is nearly 400 pages long.

The diseases being investigated range from the well-known to the obscure: from malaria to melioidosis. There is a study on neuropsychiatry and one on upper respiratory infections. The pages abound with plasmodia, vibrios, viruses, worms, fleas, chiggers and mosquitoes—especially mosquitoes, some of which carry plasmodia, viruses, and other organisms.

A large part of the Thai-US combined efforts at the SEATO Medical Research Laboratory is concerned with the various genera and species of thesy mosquitoes—the 'vectors' of malaria, haemorhagic fever, Japanese encephalitis and other diseases. There also exist, of course, mosquitoes which are quite innocent of any crime, except perhaps that of pestering and irritating the human population.

The need to separate the sheep from the goats, the criminal from the innocuous of the mosquito world is obvious; so is the need for medical scientists and health authorities to know more about the complex habits of those incriminated in the spread of a disease. Control or eradication programmes of mosquitoes can be costly—if not prohibitively so. Fuller knowledge of the mosquitoes would naturally provide a surer basis for formulating and carrying out more economical, and effective programmes.

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Field workers from the SEATO Medical Research Laboratory are pictured here collecting mosquito larvae for identification.

SEATO MEDICAL

Aedes aegypti

LAB. COMPILES MASSIVE DOSSIER

Aedes albopictus

ON MOSQUITOES

Here in the breeding chamber at the SEATO Medical Research Laboratory mosquito larvae in various stages of growth are being nurtured until required for experimental purposes.

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According to the Annual Progress Report, the SEATO Medical Research Laboratory, based in Bangkok, has embarked on an intensive study, whose main objectives are to 'collect, identify, catalogue and redescribe' all the mosquito species of Thailand.

The Report covers activities from April 1968 to March 1969, but the project itself looks like continuing for some years to come, the eventual goal being no less than 'the production of monographs on the mosquitoes of the area, together with keys, handbooks, and other identification aids for the use of workers in public health and associated fields and the later inclusion of this material into larger monographic works on the mosquitoes of South-East Asia.'

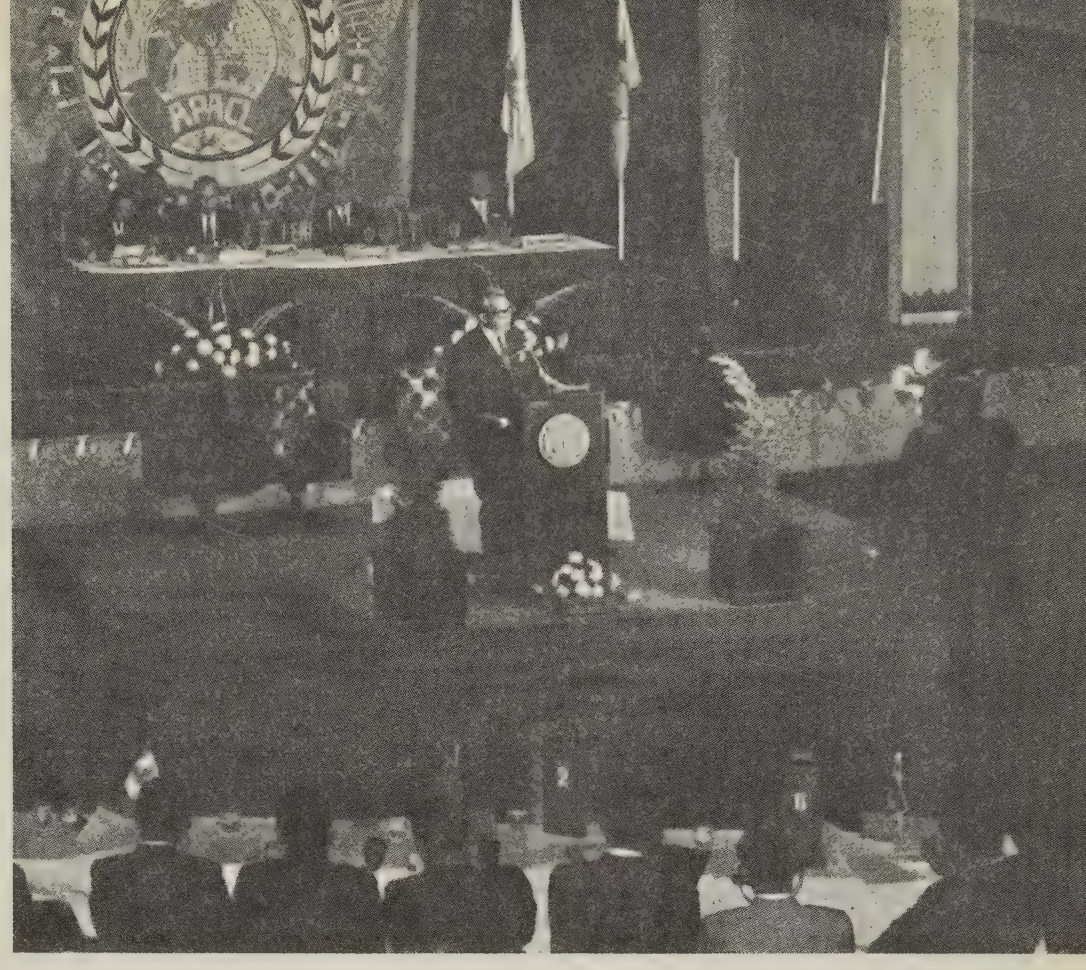
Towards this goal—and it is hoped that these few facts and figures will give lay readers some idea of the scope and nature of the work,—Thai-US teams from the SEATO Laboratory went searching for mosquitoes in 18 of Thailand's 71 provinces. From natural sites, from traps laid by themselves, and by other methods. the teams made 1,284 mosquito collections during the Report period, which resulted in 14,726 pinned adults, 8,693 slide mounts of larvae, larval skins and pupal skins, and 1,186 slide mounts of male and female terminalia.

The teams concentrated on the *Anopheles*, responsible for the transmission of malaria, and the *Aedes*, which contains vector species of dengue haemorrhagic fever, the most important two being *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*. Occasionally, in the course of their collection some rather unexpected habits were revealed which might point to a modification of previous understanding of the mosquito concerned.

Take the *A. aegypti*, which also features in another SEATO Medical Research project launched a few years ago following an outbreak of haemorrhagic fever on Koh Samui, an island in Southern Thailand. Collections made during the Report period of *A. aegypti* larvae in three provinces, one south-east of Bangkok, and two in northern Thailand, have resulted in observations suggesting either that feral populations of *A. aegypti* may exist in Thailand, or that the flight range of this mosquito may be greater than is commonly accepted.

Apart from this taxonomic research on the mosquitoes themselves, and the continuing intensive studies on the various aspects of the mosquito-borne malaria and haemorrhagic fever, mention should be made of another SEATO mosquito project of great importance. This is a study of insecticide resistance level of mosquitoes in Thailand, the purpose of which is to help ensure the success of public health efforts in combatting mosquito-borne diseases through control of the vectors. The findings from this much-needed assessment will be welcomed not only in Thailand but in many other parts of the world.

Keynote speech by Vargas stresses need for Asian solidarity in face of Red threat



IN a keynote speech given at the World Anti-Communist League and Asian Peoples' Anti-Communist League Conference in Bangkok earlier this month, the Secretary-General of SEATO, Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, warned hundreds of delegates from more than 60 countries that Asians should not be duped by spurious moves that Russia was making to establish a foothold in the region on the pretext of aid, trade, culture and the need for a new security pact in the area to counter any future threat from Communist China.

General Vargas, whose theme was 'Asian Unity—a Pre-condition to Peace and Freedom,' reviewed the current Asian scene in the light of numerous changes that have been taking place in the region over the past months.

"I can recall no period," he said, "in the history of Asia that has witnessed so profound a change in such a short time, and in which there has been so much at stake for so many people than in this, our age."

He called upon all free Asians to "close ranks and, as one, to come to grips with the enemy and beat him at his own game." Only in that way could the expansionist aims of the Communists be defeated no matter whether they were dictated from Peking in the East or Moscow in the West.

Extracts from the main points in his speech follow:

"The contemporary scene has witnessed a fantastic growth of nationalism among Asians. Nationalism, as a propelling force for progress, is imperative. The danger lies in the fact that it is the Communist *modus operandi* to subvert and exploit, for their own sinister ends, the legitimate national aspirations of a people by equating those aspirations with anti-Westernism or anti-Internationalism.

"For some countries, the fast changing face of Asia has provided the climate or cause to adopt a policy of non-alignment... Since, as a general rule, Communist subversion has progressed the fastest and thrived the best in neutral countries, the present trend towards neutralism is indeed a negative factor in the effort to counter Communist subversion and insurgency in this Area.

"The events of recent years have also revealed a distinct trend, to my mind a very healthy one, towards regionalism among Asians—a trend clearly demonstrated by the formation of such political groupings as ASEAN, ASPAC and others. Indeed, the Asians are taking bold and unprecedented steps in the direction of self-help and mutual assistance among their fellows, impelled mainly by a new realization that the problems of Asia are primarily for the Asians to solve. These new political organizations, whose objectives are almost purely economic, cultural and political, have thrown into bold relief the unique character of the South-East Asia Treaty Organization as the only defensive alliance in this troubled area designed to meet Communist aggression in all its ugly forms. In relation to those groups, SEATO has helped provide the conditions of peace and security so vital to meaningful progress...

"Mainly for political and economic reasons, the great powers are gradually pulling out of the Asian scene, and in effect switching to a policy of near isolationism...

"The tendency of the Big Powers either to disengage from the troubles of Asia or to reduce the extent of their commitments to the security of the region could lead to a security vacuum which the Communists would be only too happy to fill.

Serious doubts

"These Big Power decisions have had the immediate effect of jolting Free Asians to the inevitable conclusion, rightly or wrongly, that they could easily be let down by their powerful friends and allies. These developments have also raised very serious doubts in the minds of the people of the Area about the very validity of treaty commitments.

"Major changes in the face of Asia have also taken place and continue to do so as a direct result of the programmes arrived at expanding their influence of the two biggest Communist powers, the Soviet Union and Communist China. Although each has pursued its programme in divergent ways, the objectives of both have been geared to eventual Communist domination of the world. In fact, one cannot really overlook the long-term possibility that, despite the present animosity between the Soviet and Communist Chinese regimes, their differences may somehow be resolved... Should such a reconciliation occur, the nations of Asia could indeed find themselves totally subsumed in an area of imperious communism.

"Events in Asia during the past few years give no encouragement to the hope that Communist China's attitude towards her South-East Asian neighbours will be modified to any appreciable degree in the foreseeable future. On the contrary, an appraisal of affairs within Communist China provides clear indications that... in keeping with Peking's sustained support of so-called 'Wars of National Liberation' during the past few years, it would pursue with even greater vigour its support of subversion and insurgency within the borders of the free countries of Asia.

"The Soviet Union, for its part... has been making cautious but far-sighted steps to establish its influence in South-East Asia, It is apparent that there is today a widespread pattern of expansion of Soviet influence in this area generally, from Ceylon to Malaysia. Russia has set up diplomatic, economic and cultural relations with many countries in the region... Acting through North Vietnam, the Soviet Union has made certain preliminary moves to establish diplomatic relations with Nationalist China. Similar attempts have also been made in respect of Japan. Consider-

The Secretary General of SEATO. Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas is pictured making his keynote speech at the WACL and APACL conference.

ing the new "forward" policy of the USSR, these diplomatic initiatives are not as incredible as they would seem at first sight... In May this year... an authoritative article in Izvestia, the official Soviet newspaper, expressed concern at Peking's 'definite designs on a number of countries' in this part of the world and suggested that the situation called for 'the laying of the foundation of collective security'. The same theme was taken up by Mr. Brezhnev, Chairman of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, at the Conference of World Communist Parties held in Moscow in June.

Proposal well-timed

"The Soviet proposal for 'a collective security system in Asia' was well-timed, from the Russian point of view. Firstly, any proposal that offered the prospect of containing Communist Chinese aggression was likely to appear attractive to those countries which were the declared targets of that aggression. Secondly, the receptiveness of regional governments to such a concept could be substantial in the light of the announced British withdrawal and, additionally, in the light of recent modifications in American policies in the area. Thirdly, there has been in South-East Asia a growing appreciation that regional co-operation, certainly in economic matters and possibly in defence, holds definite benefits for the individual countries of the region. Fourthly, the preliminary actions of the Soviet Union have been characterized by utmost 'correctness'; great care has been taken to limit them to legitimate spheres that bring mutual benefits and to avoid creating the impression that their objective is a long-term propagation of the Soviet brand of communism. Finally, there has been a growing feeling in the area that a cautious dialogue with the Communist powers must be achieved in some way if regional security is to be attained.

"Although the proposal has not as yet been set out in any detail, the USSR appears to have in mind an arrangement whereby all foreign military bases would be excluded from the Area, all Asian countries, irrespective of their political complexion, would guarantee one another's security and frontiers, and emphasis would be placed on economic co-operation and the peaceful resolution of local disputes.

The regional Governments may well see in the Soviet concept certain benefits to their own interests, especially in the short term. The Soviet Union may be expected to exploit this by making advantageous offers of economic aid and trading partnerships, as it has successfully done in some countries, and by encouraging regional economic co-operation, which would be consistent with its long-term objectives to extend its sphere of influence.

"The long-term implications, however, need to be appraised with the utmost circumspection. In the first place, any increase of Soviet influence would undoubtedly spur Communist China on to stepping up its support of subversion and insurgency, and thus accentuate the present major threat to the stability of the region.

Communist subservience

"In addition, there is the inherent danger that acceptance of the scheme would lead to political subservience to the world's major Communist power, for a dominant role in economic matters is conducive to the development of an equally dominant role in political affairs.

"In short, the Soviet concept contains the very real danger that, in time, the regional countries may find themselves subjected to rigid external political domination which denies them the right to determine even their own domestic policies...

"The oft-repeated but entirely distinct proposal for some kind of a security alliance of free Asian countries has, understandably, attracted even more attention in recent months.

Stop-gap solutions

"Several national leaders, spurred on to a determined search for suitable interim or alternative defence arrangements, and recognizing that they have inevitably been tossed into the whirlpool of Big Power domestic politics, have expressed some support, in varying degrees, for the idea. To free Asians, this search for stop-gap solutions or alternatives is a question of survival...

"What, exactly, are the prospects for active Japanese participation in the defence of Asia?... The hostile forces around her, her geographic size and location, her need for trade; these, and many other factors, would all seem to dictate that she must develop military, naval and air power to guard her booming economy.

"This appears also to indicate that no all-Asian security pact would be of any real moment without the membership and the active participation of Japan. Yet, it is not difficult to recognize that Japan cannot change its policies and build up its military might to the proportions of an established military power literally overnight.

"There are other difficulties in the way of a full-dress all-Asian pact at this time. Before a developing country can become a useful member of any alliance in which there is no established world power, it must first attain a certain minimum standard of economic and social development...

A binding arrangement

"I believe that a formal Asian security alliance would be well worth all the time, all the energy and all the expense involved in its formation, if the main threat to the Area were overt aggression. This is no longer the case, as you know; the main threat which faces us is Communist subversion and insurgency. I doubt very much that, after Vietnam, the Communists will ever attempt any overt aggression of a similar magnitude in the foreseeable future.

"What is needed immediately, it seems, is not a formal alliance which would take time to establish and to whip up into a going concern, but some practical and fairly elaborate and binding arrangement whereby effective collaboration among all the free countries of Asia could be carried out in combatting the particular threat of Communist covert aggression. Such a system of effective down-to-earth collaboration could, naturally, constitute the groundwork and provide the foundation for the establishment, at the appropriate time, of an all-Asian military alliance as such.

Re-direction of effort

"We in SEATO, without being oblivious to the requirements of military preparedness against overt Communist aggression, have set up a Counter-subversion-and-insurgency Centre, in a necessary re-direction of the efforts of the Alliance.

"The activities of the Centre have so far been confined to its Members, although, in keeping with the present nature and extent of the threat of Communist subversion, we are attempting to generate some interest in those activities among non-Members. I realize that a far bigger endeavour in this direction, encompassing the affairs and catering to the interests of all free Asian countries faced with Communist subversion and insurgency, is possible; and this should be pursued promptly and vigorously.

"With a set-up such as I have just mentioned, and with the Big Powers committed under the Manila Pact to the security of the region, thus providing the requisite Big Power shield and the necessary backing, very little else would be needed to make the machinery for Free World defence in this Area truly responsive to its many peculiar problems.

"Let us face it. The Communists are a persistent lot, and, I dare say, are winning in many ways. They know where they want to go and they are steadily getting there.

Situation has deteriorated

"In South-East Asia during the past year or so, there has been a marked, and therefore very disquieting, deterioration in the subversive and insurgent situation. View this against the truism that no country in the region is today without a Communist Party, legitimate or clandestine, and further, that no endemic Communist Party, either established or incipient, is known ever to have veered from the well-known Communist aim of undermining free Governments for the eventual seizure of national power, and you have a very sad but realistic picture indeed.

"On the other hand, the free countries of Asia have had to fend each to his own, quite often haphazardly, and, in some case, wrangling with one another in the process.

Need for solidarity

"I submit that the need of free Asians at this time is solidarity in the face of an enemy who is determined to deal with them and to topple them one by one. I suggest that the action to take, in the wake of diminishing free world Big Power involvement in the affairs of Asia, is for the Asians themselves to stand up and be counted... I suggest that, in so far as this region is concerned, the order of the day is for Asians to close ranks and, as one, to come to grips with the enemy and beat him at his own game.

"Then, and only then, can peace and freedom in this potentially most explosive part of the world be assured for the enduring benefit of all mankind."

DEATH OF MR. WRAIGHT

MR. David A. Wraight of New Zealand, the Deputy Secretary-General of the South-East Asia Treaty Organization, died early last month in Bangkok following a heart attack.

Several hundred colleagues, friends, members of the International community and representatives of the many organizations to which be belonged attended the funeral service at the International Church in Bangkok.

The church was strewn with colourful wreaths from his many friends and associates, and the memorial service was conducted by the Rev. Erwin R. Rucklic.

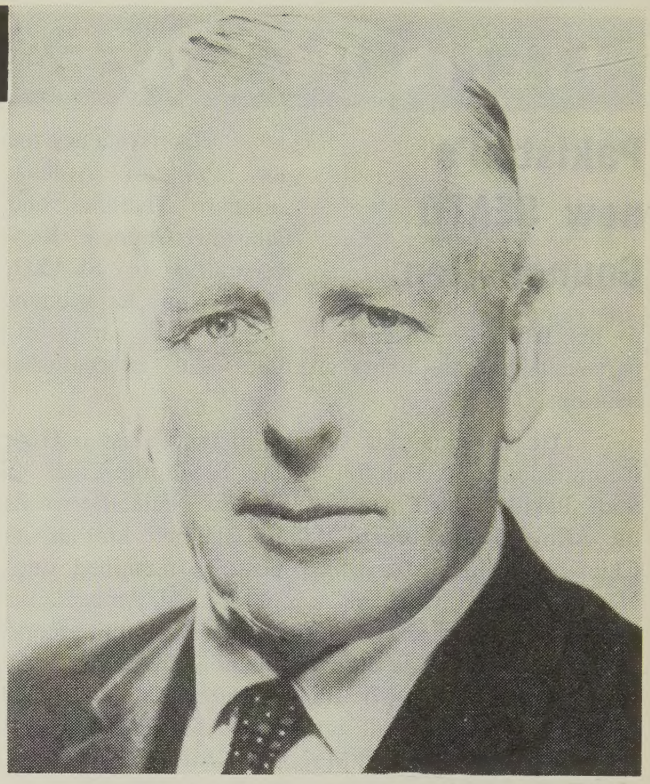
The pall bearers comprised a representative from SEATO, the New Zealand Embassy, the Australia and New Zealand Association of Thailand, the Masonic Lodge, and the Rotary Club of Bangkok.

Meanwhile, a Book of Condolences was opened at the South-East Asia Treaty Organization Headquarters, for friends of the late Mr. Wraight to sign.

Mr. Wraight, who was 64, took up his post with SEATO in April 1964, having formerly been Secretary of the New Zealand Navy for 14 years. He first joined the Navy Department in 1936. He graduated from the Imperial Defence College in London in 1949 and afterwards served for a time with the British Admiralty. He is survived by his widow and one son.

The Secretary-General of the South-East Asia Treaty Organization, Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, commenting on Mr. Wraight's death, said that in the five years that Mr. Wraight had been Deputy Secretary-General of SEATO he had proved himself an outstanding administrator, and a staunch supporter of the Free World cause.

The Secretary-General of SEATO, Lieut. Gen. Jesus Vargas, is pictured here signing the Book of Condolences for the late Mr. Wraight. With him is Captain Chob Sirodom, Deputy Chief, SEATO Military Planning Office.



Mr. Wraight was a past Vice-President of the Rotary Club of Bangkok and he was Foundation President of the Australia and New Zealand Association of Thailand.

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Pall bearers carry the coffin draped with the SEATO flag after the funeral service at Bangkok's International Church.

ITEMS IN BRIEF

Pakistan's new SEATO Council Rep.

His Excellency the new Pakistan Ambassador to Thailand, and Pakistan Council Representative to SEATO, Mr. M. Raab, has brought to his Bangkok assignment a wide and varied experience in both military affairs and international relations.

He served as Air Adviser to the Pakistan High Commissioner in London before becoming Chief of Staff, Pakistan Air Force in 1957. Two years afterwards the Ministry of Foreign Affairs claimed him as its Chief of Protocol, at which post he remained until November 1961 when he was appointed Ambassador to Turkey. After six years in Ankara came the second Ambassadorship, this time to Lebanon, from May 1966 to November 1969. Mr. Raab is pictured above (left) during his courtesy call on SEATO Secretary-General Jesus Vargas (centre) and Maj. Gen. Autrey J. Maroun, Chief ofthe SEATO Military Planning Office.

New Council Rep. from Australia

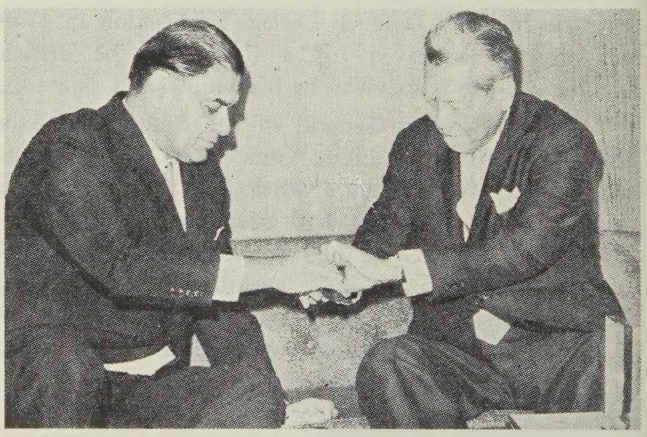
The new Australian Ambassador to Thailand and Australian SEATO Council Representative, His Excellency Mr. T.K. Critchley visited SEATO Headquarters earlier this month to meet Secretary-General Jesus Vargas and the Chief of the Military Planning Office, Major-General Autrey J. Maroun for briefings and discussions on SEATO Civil and Military activities.

From left to right in the photograph are General Vargas, Mr. Critchley and General Maroun. Mr. Critchley replaces Mr. D.W. McNicol who was the previous Ambassador to Thailand and Council Representative.

Party time and gifts galore

Two hundred and fifty children of the staff of SEATO attended this year's annual Christmas Party held in the SEATO cafeteria on the afternoon of 13 December. It was ice-cream-pop-corn-and-bottles-of-pop all the way as usual, with gaily wrapped gifts for the youngsters presented by Santa Claus (Lt. Col. L. McLean).

The grand finale came when the New Zealand entertainers, the Maori Volcanics, staged Maori war-dances, and an Hawaiian dance. Some of the older children also staged a number of dances. A magic show by Mr. Areno rounded off the party.



Death of former SEATO expert

Morton Horsely, who was a Senior Research Officer at SEATO from 1963-65 died suddenly at his home in Marnhul, Dorset. England, on November 9th. Mr. Horsely was a member of the Malayan Civil Service for 12 years.

On your Bookshelf

Books added recently to the SEATO Library include the following:

BRANDT, Willy. A Peace Policy for Europe. Translated by Joel Carmichael. New York, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1969. ix, 225p. 341.5

INAYATULLAH, Q.M. Shafi. Dynamics of development in a Pakistani village. Peshawar, Academy for Rural Development, 1963. 185p. 309.209547

JOCANO, F. Landa. The traditional world of Malitbog. Diliman, University of the Philippines, 1969. xv, 407p., illus. 309.209914

KOREA. Central Education. Research Institute Education in Korea 1968-9. Seoul, The Ministry of Education, 1969. ix, 65p., illus. 370.9519

MONTGOMERY OF ALAMEIN. A History of Warfare. London, Collins, 1968. 584p., illus., maps. 335.48

OOI JIN-BEE *editor*. Modern Singapore. University of Singapore, 1969. 285p. 959.52

POMEROY, William J. Guerrilla warfare and Marxism: a collection of writings from Karl Marx to the present on armed struggles for liberation and for Socialism. London, Lawrence & Wishart, 1969. 336p. 355.42

WILSON, Dick. A Quarter of mankind; an anatomy of China today. Harmondsworth, Penguin Books, 1968. 332p. 335.430951

SEATO PUBLICATIONS

(The following publications may be obtained, on request, from the Public Information Office, SEATO Headquarter, P.O. Box 517, Bangkok, Thailand.)

SEATO Annual Report 1967-68 (English, Thai)—by Lt. Gen. Jesus M. Vargas, Secretary-General of SEATO.

Story of SEATO (English, Thai) New Edition, 1969.
Information magazine on SEATO's Military and civil activities.

Manila Pact and Pacific Charter (revised 1968)
Texts of the South-East Asia Collective Defence Treaty and the Pacific Charter, with explanatory notes.

Gandhara Sculpture in Pakistan (English, Thai)
The origin and development of Gandhara art.

Aspects of the History, Culture and Religions of Pakistan
Lectures by Dr. Ishtiaq Hussain Qureshi, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Karachi, as a travelling lecturer under the SEATO Cultural Programme.

Interpretative Translations of Thai Poets
by M.R. Seni Pramoj.

Post-graduate Studies in Asian SEATO Countries
A guide for applicants for SEATO post-graduate scholarships.

Collective Security: Shield of Freedom (Revised, 1963)
The nature and scope of the various collective security pacts linking 41 nations of the Free World. Foreword by Mr. Pote Sarasin, former Secretary-General of SEATO. 165 pp.

Medical
Research into Disease—I (Revised): Cholera (Pakistan—SEATO Cholera Research Laboratory) in English and Thai.
Research into Disease—II: The Search for Health (SEATO medical projects in Thailand).
Research into Disease—III: Malaria (SEATO Medical Research Laboratory, Bangkok) in English and Thai.

Community Development
Report of the SEATO Seminar on Community Development, July 19-23, 1965. In English and Thai.

The Role of Youth in Asia
Report of the SEATO Seminar on 'Youth's Response to Challenges in Asia', Feb. 13-17, 1967.

Skilled Workers for the Armed Forces (English, Thai)
A description of the SEATO Military Technical Training School, Bangkok.

Training Workers for Developing Industries (English, Thai)
An account of the SEATO Skilled Labour Project in Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand.

Posters:
Better Communications for Better Living (English, Thai)
Skilled Hands for National Progress (English, Thai)
The Painter's View of his Country—I
Good Health Key to National Prosperity
Highway To Health (SEATO-Cholera Research Laboratory, Dacca).
A Helping Hand On The Land (SEATO Agricultural Research Project).

Communist Economic Subversion: A Reappraisal
by Dr. Hans Heymann Jr. A discussion of the growing Communist reliance on economic measures as tools of foreign policy.

Peking on Revolution
Extracts from speeches and articles on the 90th anniversary of the birth of Lenin indicating the demand for revolutionary uprising.

Communism in Decline: the Huk Campaign
by Lt. Gen. Jesus M. Vargas.

Defeating Communist Insurgency
by Sir Robert Thompson (Thai translation)

Radio Writers Handbook (English, Thai)
by Madeleine C. Meyer.

The Changing Face of Communism
A lecture in booklet form given at SEATO Headquarters by Douglas Hyde in May, 1968.

Security in Rural Areas
Two papers in booklet form presented by Douglas Hyde at a SEATO-sponsored seminar on internal security in rural areas held in Manila in May, 1968.

Buddhism in Thailand
By R. Bhavilai. A modern Thai's interpretation of Buddhism.

Printed by Sompong Chaicharoen at the Sompong Press Ltd. Part. 14/8 Pracharasdra Road, Bangkok, December 1969

DECEMBER IS THAILAND'S 'HOLIDAY' MONTH AND FILIPINO MISS NELIA SALAZAR WHO
WORKING FOR A Ph D IN MICROBIOLOGY AT MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY IN BANGKOK UNDER
SEATO POST GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP WAS ABLE TO TAKE TIME OFF FOR A TOUR OF SOM
OF THE CITY'S SIGHTS. SHE IS PICTURED HERE (CENTRE) IN FRONT OF BANGKOK'S FAMOU
MARBLE TEMPLE ESCORTED BY MR. THONGCHAI SUWANKANIT AND MRS. KAMPLOY SNIDVONG
OF SEATO'S CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS OFFICE.